Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-117
Friday
17 June 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-117 *17 June 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Negotiator Describes Development Conference Meeting *[Rabat Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Sources' on 'Arafat's Travel to Jericho *[AFP]* 1
Adviser: Reports on 'Arafat Visit 'Untrue' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
'Arafat Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
Israel Releases Another 80 Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Security Official Details Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Hamas Deputy Leader Released by Israel *[AFP]* 2
Sha'th on Released Detainees, Economic Projects *[AL-QUDS 16 Jun]* 2
Sha'th on Economic Problems in Self-Rule Areas *[MENA]* 3
PLO Dismisses Signers of Unauthorized Agreement *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 15 Jun]* 4
Hamas Leader Denies Acceptance of Gaza-Jericho *[IRNA]* 4
Authority Member on Resignation 'Threat' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Poll Surveys Palestinians' Concerns *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jun]* 5

OPEC Affairs

Mid-Year Meeting in Deadlock Over Secretary General *[AFP]* 6
Libyan Minister To 'Oversee' Affairs *[AFP]* 7
Iranian Nominee Comments on Oil Issues *[IRNA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri Clarifies Remarks on Western Sahara Solution *[MAP]* 8
FIS Leader Claims Zeroual Broke Agreement *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Jun]* 8
Transitional National Council Elects Committee Heads *[Algiers Radio]* 8
$110-Million World Bank Loan for Potable Water Systems *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

Mubarak on Crisis in Yemen, Arab-Israeli Peace *[MENA]* 9
Guard Killed, Two Wounded in Asyut Shooting *[MENA]* 10
14 Detainees in Lawyers Incidents Released *[MENA]* 10
Defense Minister, PRC Commander Discuss Issues *[MENA]* 10
Daily Denounces Yemeni Leaders for Continuing War *[MENA]* 10
Minister Notes Service of Foreign Debts *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Foreign Liaison Secretary Lauds OAU Support *[JANA]* 11
OAU Reportedly Calls For End to Sanctions *[Tripoli Radio]* 11
Further on Opposition to Sanctions *[Tripoli Radio]* 11
African Leaders Arrive for Regional Talks 12

Niger President Makes Statement *[JANA]* 12
Burkina Faso's Campaore Arrives *[JANA]* 12
Malian Seeks To 'Consolidate' Ties *[Tripoli TV]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Presidents *[Tripoli TV]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Banquet *[Tripoli International]* 13
Dissident's Wife Comments, Travels to Tripoli *[London MBC TV]* 13

Sudan

Al-Bashir Hails U.S. Moves; SPLM Names Council *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Jun]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Daily Sees 'Disaster' in Yemeni 'Secession' *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 15 Jun]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Leaders Meet With South Yemen's al-'Attas *[SPA]* 15

Yemen

House Speaker Reiterates Government Stand on Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 15
Presidential Council Member Visits Aden Bases *[Aden Radio]* 16
President Salih Visits al-Yarmuk Army Camp *[Sanaa Radio]* 16
Salih Briefs UAE's Zayid, Syria's al-Asad *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Salih Said To Accept 'Immediate' Cease-Fire *[London MBC TV]* 17
UN Envoy Outlines Steps To Resolve Crisis *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jun]* 17
Sanaa: Contacts Held With 'Moderate' YSP Leaders
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jun] 18
'Official Source' Decries South's 'Fabricated Reports' *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Aden Citizens Warned To Avoid Strategic Locations *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Phone Lines Fixed Except to Gulf States, Egypt *[INA]* 19
Six Killed in Attacks, Japanese Trawler Hit in Aden *[Kuwait Radio]* 19
Authorities Said To Arrest Saudi-Recruited Saboteurs *[INA]* 19
Southern Forces Halt Northern Advance Near Aden *[KUNA]* 19

IRAQ

'Scores' of Government Casualties Claimed in South *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 20
Officers Reportedly Killed in Baghdad Rebel Attack *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 20
Kurd Factions Blame Each Other for 'Massacre' *[AFP]* 20
Economic Cooperation Talks With Yugoslav Delegation *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 21
Minister Discusses Ties With PRC Official *[INA]* 21
Paper on Saudi 'Military Buildup' on Yemeni Border *[INA]* 21
Religious Awareness Committees Cable Support *[AL-THAWRAH 8 Jun]* 22
Writer Urges Amputation for Theft Decree *[BABIL 5 Jun]* 22
Article Discusses Growth of Wahhabism *[BABIL 12 Jun]* 22

ISRAEL

Netanyahu Reportedly Met With Hasan in May *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Netanyahu Refuses To Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Beilin: Country Mediating Foreign Disputes *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
PLO Sources Reveal Contents of Rabin Letter to 'Arafat *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Diplomatic Relations Established With Andorra *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jun]* 25
Reinforcement of IDF Troops in Jordan Valley *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jun]* 26
Neriya on Resignation as Political Adviser *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jun]* 26

JORDAN

Jordan Rules Out Participation in Yemen Committee *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jun]* .. 28
Cabinet Reshuffle Indicates 'No Change' on Policy *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Jun]* 28
Hasan Affirms Support for 'Comprehensive Peace' *[Amman TV]* 28

LEBANON

Israeli Air Force Raids 'Terrorist' Target *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 30
Resistance Attacks Israeli-SLA Post *[Beirut Radio]* 30
Fighting Between Hizballah, Israeli Forces *[Paris AFP]* 30
Cabinet Briefed on U.S., Syrian Stands *[MENA]* 30
Attack on Sydney Consulate Linked to Sham'un Case *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Report of Indictment of Ja'ja' in Murder Case *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Al-Hariri's Illness Causes Cancellation of Meetings *[Voice of the South]* 31

SYRIA

Al-Asad's Negotiating Prowess Described *[AL-DIYAR 7 Jun]* 32
Official Hits U.S., Others for Arming Israel *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jun]* 34
Paper Urges 'Tangible' U.S. Pressure on Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Ba'th Party Official Receives UK Figure *[Damascus Radio]* 36

SOUTH ASIA

India

BJP Reiterates Demand for Nuclear Weapons *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 13 Jun]* 37
Delhi Sees 'Glimmer of Hope' in DPRK Nuclear Crisis *[Delhi Radio]* 37
'Crude' Bombs Shock Prime Minister's Security *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 12 Jun]* 38
Nineteen Reportedly Killed in Kashmir Clashes *[Islamabad TV]* 38
6 Killed in Kashmir Valley *[Delhi Radio]* 38

Iran

President Views Foreign Policy at World Forum *[Tehran TV]* 38
Velayati on 'Readiness' To Cut Arms Shipments *[Tehran TV]* 39
Comments on Foreign Policy *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Foreign Minister's Visit to Iraq Previewed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 12 Jun]* 40
Velayati Prepared To Send 10,000 Troops to Bosnia
[Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE 16 Jun] 40
Bosnian Foreign Minister Denounces Britain *[TEHRAN TIMES 13 Jun]* 41
Commentary Views OPEC Meeting in Vienna *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Daily Lauds President's Candor in News Conference *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 9 Jun]* 42
Correction to Hashemi-Rafsanjani News Conference 43

Nepal

King Summons Parliament To Meet 29 Jun *[AFP]* 44
Opposition Party Splits Into Two Factions *[AFP]* 45
Government Announces New Visa Regulations *[AFP]* 45

Arab-Israeli Talks

Negotiator Describes Development Conference Meeting

LD1606215394 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Concerning the international efforts to support the Middle East peace process, the proceedings of the fifth session of the multilateral working group, which has been charged within the framework of the Arab-Israeli conference with developing the countries of the Middle East region, continued this morning in Rabat. Like the previous proceedings, this session was held behind closed doors and lasted for more than five hours. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian delegation taking part in this session held a news conference today in which it gave an initial evaluation of the meeting, which is expected to conclude its proceedings this evening. Concerning the subjects discussed in this morning's meeting, (Muhammad Shitiyah), a member of the Palestinian delegation, said:

[Begin (Shitiyah) recording] We have listened to numerous reports dealing with different issues submitted by the sponsoring countries. In particular, we have listened to a report by the Spanish Government on the agricultural issue, from Japan on tourism in the region, a summary study from Germany on the issue of trade in the Middle East and its international ramifications, and also a report from the United States on the issue of training. We have also listened to a report from the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, a committee for coordinating aid to the Palestinian people, which convened in Paris last week. There were also numerous interventions from the different sides. There was a proposal presented by the European Community. Basically, it requested that more weight be given to the Middle East region in determining its priorities, as we said yesterday. The proposal has been modified many times, and the international dimension was retained. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

'Sources' on 'Arafat's Travel to Jericho

NC1606170894 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, June 16 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat will make his long-awaited visit to Gaza and Jericho within the next week, but it will only be for a short stay, Palestinian and diplomatic sources said Thursday.

'Arafat will visit the newly-autonomous areas for three days but will spend every night in Amman according to the plans being laid, the sources said. No precise date is yet known.

Contradictory rumours have been circulating for weeks about when the PLO chief intends to make his triumphant entry into Jericho. But preparations have been going on nonetheless to hand over control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho to the new Palestinian Authority.

'Arafat is due to return for good to Jericho, but has said he did not want to make the trip until donor countries had fulfilled pledges to help fund Palestinian self-rule.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders have been issuing various dates for his return for months. On Sunday the PLO's former negotiator Nabil Sha'th said 'Arafat would arrive within two weeks. Sha'th himself entered the Gaza Strip on Tuesday after spending most of his life in exile.

PLO officials said Sha'th would prepare for 'Arafat's arrival either later this month or in early July.

Adviser: Reports on 'Arafat Visit 'Untrue'

JN1706055294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to the Palestinian president, has said that reports on 'Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho are untrue. He said the Palestinian president will announce his final return to embrace his people day and night after he and the Palestinian leadership have completed the necessary organizational, administrative, and financial measures for a final return and for beginning the construction of the homeland, as he put it.

Earlier, Palestinian and diplomatic sources said that 'Arafat would pay a short visit to the autonomous areas over the next seven days. However, Kanafani did not decisively rule out the idea that 'Arafat might visit the autonomous areas before his final return.

'Arafat Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

JN1606201794 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has received a written message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, delivered the message when brother president Abu-'Ammar received him in Tunis yesterday.

Israel Releases Another 80 Prisoners

TA1706095794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Another 80 Palestinian prisoners who are members of the rejectionist organizations were released from prison today and sent to their homes in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that these prisoners agreed to sign a declaration vowing not to act

against the peace agreement. Another 570 prisoners who were scheduled to be released in accordance with the Cairo agreement refused to sign the declaration.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat accused Israel of violating the Cairo agreement with regard to the Palestinian prisoners. In a news conference in Jericho, 'Urayqat said that according to the agreement all the political prisoners, as he put it, must be released unconditionally. He noted that Israel's demand that the prisoners sign any document constitutes blackmail. In his opinion, the fact that the prisoners are taken to Jericho also represents a violation of the agreement because Israel must allow them to return to their homes.

'Urayqat also criticized the roadblocks erected by Israel on the highways leading to the autonomous area, saying they prevent tourists from entering the self-rule areas.

Security Official Details Release

TA1606163294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent Moti Amir] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Prisons Service today released the last Palestinian prisoner according to the Gaza and Jericho agreement. Today, 170 Palestinian prisoners were released and sent to their homes in the territories; another 160 criminals are being transferred from Israeli prisons to the central prison in Gaza; while 650 prisoners belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad were not released because they refused to sign a statement declaring that they will not resort to violence against the Gaza and Jericho agreement and will remain within the boundaries of the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', head of the joint security committee, said today: We have thus fulfilled our commitment under the Cairo agreement, as all those who refused to sign the declaration today are on the list of those who were to be released.

[Sami'] *Therefore, in general, if we add up all the figures I mentioned, we arrive at more than 4,900 prisoners who were released or listed as slated for release. Hence, the security committee declares unequivocally, with the agreement of the two parties, that Israel has thus fulfilled the Cairo agreement, which stipulated the release of some 5,000 prisoners.*

[Amir] Incidentally, the fate of more than 900 prisoners who were not released because of their refusal to sign the declaration will be discussed in the next round of negotiations on the release of prisoners. Gen. Sami' made it clear today that several categories of released prisoners have been agreed on with the Palestinians. Only a small group of prisoners who had been given short terms were allowed to return to their homes.

[Sami'] *Prisoners belonging to one of the categories on which the two parties agreed, based on the signed agreement, will be returned to the area of the autonomy; that is, Gaza residents will be sent to the Gaza Strip, and residents of Judaea and Samaria will be sent to Jericho. This agreement remains valid. We renewed the validity of this agreement last Monday and once again today, just to be sure. None of the parties questions this agreement.*

[Amir] Samir al-Siqsiq, alias Abu-Hamis, the Palestinian representative at the joint security committee, says that Israel did everything it could to implement the agreement on the prisoner release:

[Al-Siqsiq, in English] *Had these 650 people from the Islamic groups signed, they would have been released today. We had all the arrangements ready for them. I think, in all fairness, the Israeli side has tried to see that the agreement be fulfilled.*

[Amir] No released prisoners will be brought to Jericho today because none of the candidates to go there signed the declaration, which is a prerequisite for their release.

Hamas Deputy Leader Released by Israel

NC1606171494 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 16 (AFP)—Israel released the deputy leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS on Thursday among several hundred Palestinians set free, Palestinian sources said.

Sa'id Abu-Musamih, 47, one of the co-founders of the Moslem fundamentalist group, was serving life for his activities.

When Israel arrested HAMAS chief Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in 1989, Abu-Musamih took over as head of the movement before he was imprisoned the following year.

Yasin, sentenced to life in 1991 for murder and incitement to violence, remains in jail having refused an offer of freedom conditional on a pledge to renounce terrorism.

Sha'th on Released Detainees, Economic Projects

NC1606200794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Jun 94 pp 1, 23

[Text] Gaza, from Jamal al-Halabi and Nidal al-Mughrabi—Dr. Nabil Sha'th has stated that the detainees have the right to be fully liberated, regardless of their places of residence or their political affiliations. He stressed that the basic conditions we have accepted are:

1. That the prisoner abide by the PLO commitments.

2. That those convicted of civil crimes be handed over to the Palestinian authority so as to continue their imprisonment or to keep them under the Palestinian authority's supervision.

He added: Anything other than this would be an Israeli violation of the agreement and we will struggle to rectify it.

Reacting to reports about the formation of a new security liaison committee and the changing of the security liaison committee that signed the Gaza agreement on the detainees, Dr. Sha'th said: Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya will head the Palestinian side in the higher "Palestinian-Israeli" security committee because he had the same job in the Gaza-Jericho negotiations and knows all the agreement's details. Brig. Gen. Ziyad al-Atrash is a Palestinian military and security asset and we need him in all the security positions.

He added: There is a problem with the Israeli side on whether the West Bank prisoners will go to their houses or will be confined within the Palestinian authority's areas after their liberation. We do not want hundreds of people to feel that they are in Jericho which cannot provide houses. We refuse to deprive the released detainees from returning to their families. We are struggling to solve this problem.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said: Anyone who carries the Gaza-Jericho identity card has the right to enter the West Bank. Any person who carries the West Bank identity card has the right to enter Gaza and Jericho. Banning any person from doing so would be an Israeli security violation of the spirit of the agreement. Israel has the right to grant its citizens entry visas to the Palestinian authority's areas and we have the right to grant entry visas to Israel and the West Bank.

The Palestinian official went on to say that programs for the infrastructure and public utilities have been drawn up and that around half of the international aid will be allocated to housing. There are plans for tourist, agricultural, and industrial projects. Palestinian investors will be the source of Palestinian economic growth. They will bring tourist and commercial projects that will earn profits but will also benefit the homeland. Our role is to provide the necessary facilities for them.

He added: There is talk about a comprehensive project for cleaning Gaza after one month and that will employ around 15,000 workers for three months. All the after-effects of the occupation and the piles of garbage will be removed during that period. I am seeking to collect aid to finance this project, which will be similar to the one in Rafah which is financed by the EC. He said: An international airport will be built. The first flights from it are agreed on and will not need permits: Gaza-Jericho and Gaza-Cairo. Other routes need permits.

Dr. Sha'th denied reports that the Palestinian president will be coming today. He said that the Palestinian authority will be informed of his date of arrival at least three days before that date.

Sha'th on Economic Problems in Self-Rule Areas

NC1606181794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 16 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, has affirmed that he has returned to his homeland, Palestine, from his second homeland, Egypt. And despite all the difficulty in leaving Egypt after more than 40 years, he has returned to stay and to plan a new life. He has returned to live in his homeland.

In an interview with Basimah Nafadi, MENA correspondent in Gaza, Sha'th said that he has resigned from all his other jobs and has returned to his homeland. He said: "We have all struggled to return to our homeland. There should be no hesitation on the part of anyone to return to Palestine to build this homeland for whose liberation and independence we have struggled. The time has now come to struggle to build it."

Sha'th admitted that the current situation in the Gaza Strip and Jericho is difficult. But he added that hope, anticipation, defiance, and aspirations fill the hearts of all Palestinians. He noted that among the problems that must be tackled are the thousands of detainees, wounded, and handicapped and the need to rehabilitate them. This is in addition to the problems of unemployment, building the Palestinian economy, and establishing a state. This, he said, requires an effective, clean, fair, capable, and modern government.

Sha'th said that just as we have established the Palestinian police who regained the people's confidence after 27 years of occupation, an effective Palestinian government administration will win the confidence of the donor countries to begin providing the necessary funds for infrastructure projects. Palestinian and Arab investors will also begin establishing projects to build a strong Palestinian economy.

Sha'th said that infrastructure and public utility programs have already been prepared. About half of the international aid will be allocated for housing. There are also plans for tourism, agricultural, and industrial projects. Palestinian investors, he said, will greatly contribute to the development of the Palestinian economy, noting that he has met with many of them since he arrived in Gaza.

Regarding the Paris meeting of donor countries, Sna'th said that this meeting has created a new relationship with the Palestinian National Authority. He noted that the problem of Palestinian police salaries is being resolved and that their salaries for the months of April and May have been paid.

He said that he met last night and until 0300 today with Palestinian police and security commanders and discussed their needs and resolved their problems. He said that efforts are currently being made to solve the problems of more than 50,000 members of the families of

7,000 Palestinian policemen. He admitted that this is a big problem, as there is need to provide housing for these families under difficult conditions that exist in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Sha'th said that he was able to see first-hand the enormous economic problems facing the Palestinian people. Workers are prevented from returning to their jobs in Israel, and only about 5,000 of the 150,000 workers have been allowed to return. The Israeli authorities have also not given permits to car and truck drivers to travel to Jericho or even to enter the West Bank. This is in addition to problems of unemployment and problems that people arriving through the Rafah crossing point are facing from the Israelis.

PLO Dismisses Signers of Unauthorized Agreement

PM1606155094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 11

[Report by Sami 'Abudi and Samiyah Nakhkhul: "PLO Dismisses Officials Who Exceeded Their Authority"]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Cairo—A Palestinian official said Tuesday that the PLO has dismissed officials who signed an interim agreement with Israel confining the movement of Palestinian prisoners released by Israel to the autonomy area of Jericho. He added that these officials, who were members of the [Joint] Liaison Committee with Israel which observes security in the autonomy areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, were not authorized to sign. After seven tense hours, 287 prisoners were handed over to the Palestinian police in Jericho last week. Israel says that the Cairo agreement on autonomy allows it to insist that the prisoners handed over to the Palestinians should remain in the autonomy areas. Faysal al-Husayni, the most senior PLO official in the West Bank, has stated that the person who signed the agreement had no authority to sign, and that is why a decision was issued to replace the Palestinian Security Committee with another committee.

Al-Husayni left for Jordan yesterday, Tuesday, and is expected to travel to Tunis for a meeting with 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader Denies Acceptance of Gaza-Jericho

LD1606142094 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—'Abu Hamdan, chief of the Tehran bureau of the Palestinian Islamic movement, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] said here Thursday that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in a bid to discourage Hamas from continuing its armed struggle had offered it to take part in Gaza-Jericho plan.

According to Arafat's proposal, Hamas has been offered to share the administration of Gaza and Jericho with al-Fatah, the PLO's mainstream organization, 'Abu Hamdan said.

He told IRNA that Hamas leaders had turned down the proposal and instead called on the PLO chairman to rejoin the Palestinian nation and continue the armed struggle to liberate Palestine.

He refuted some western press allegations that Hamas was conditionally ready to participate in Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan and said, "We believe that Gaza-Jericho has not been liberated but rather the area which covers only two percent of whole Palestinian territory, has turned into a protectorate of the Zionist regime."

'Abu Hamdan said that Hamas will never accept the plan, because it is a Satanic plot aimed at guaranteeing security of the Zionists and occupying the region economically.

Asked about an alternative formula acceptable to Hamas, he said that based on the past experiences territories taken by force should be recaptured by force and that negotiations with the Zionists meant selling out the rights of Palestinian nation to them.

Authority Member on Resignation 'Threat'

JN1606145594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, member of the Palestinian National Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi: You and your FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation Party] colleague, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, are threatening to resign from the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. Why?

[Al-Shu'aybi] It is not a threat, but an expression of our party's stand on the preparations under way by the PNA. We have serious observations about the PNA's procrastination in the adoption of sufficient and necessary measures to seriously and directly assume its role, so that an authority vacuum does not occur in the territories from which the Israeli authority has withdrawn.

[Mu'addi] What are these reservations, doctor?

[Al-Shu'aybi] First, brother Yasir 'Arafat and the essential PLO leading cadre should quickly return to the territories. This particularly applies to the group that followed up the negotiations with Israel on the Cairo agreement. Now that brothers Nabil Sha'th and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya have returned, it is necessary that other brothers who took part in the formulation on this agreement return so they can directly supervise its immediate implementation. Administrative and financial issues should be completed so this authority can assume its role. So far, we still feel there is procrastination and that the question is not taken seriously.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Azmi, is this stand by you perhaps because of the marginalization of the FIDA status in the PNA?

[Al-Shu'aybi] This is irrelevant, for FIDA has willingly selected its two portfolios. Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has selected the culture and arts portfolio. I selected the youth care and sports portfolios. In fact, all those involved have selected their portfolios with complete freedom. So far, we cannot say that serious work has started in either of these two fields, or any other field. When we have made some observations public, they were intended to be addressed to all fields of Palestinian authority rather than those two fields only. I believe the vacuum resulting from the PNA's failure so far to assume its role seriously damages more than only FIDA and its representatives on the PNA.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Azmi, a last question: Have contacts been held with the PLO leadership, particularly Yasir 'Arafat in this regard?

[Al-Shu'aybi] The FIDA representatives in Tunis are authorized to raise this issue with brother Yasir 'Arafat. I believe a special session was held in Tunis yesterday to discuss these issues, including the FIDA observations about the preparations so far.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, member of the PNA, thank you very much.

[Al-Shu'aybi] Not at all.

Poll Surveys Palestinians' Concerns

TA1606155794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] The two problems most worrying Palestinians in the territories is unemployment and the worsening of their living standards and economic situation. This was stated by 86.2 percent of 1,974 respondents who participated in a public opinion poll conducted on 31 May by the Nabulus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies. The poll shows that more than half of the respondents view the Gaza-Jericho agreement favorably and points to an increase in support for Fatah and a decrease in support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The Nabulus research center began conducting public opinion polls after the signing of the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, with the current poll being its ninth.

This poll was conducted after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the arrival of the Palestinian police force, the release of hundreds of prisoners from jail, the appointment of the members of the Palestinian Authority, and the implementation of the first steps to strengthen the Palestinian self-rule in the autonomy.

According to the poll, fear of chaos and of the inability of the Palestinian Authority to enforce law and order ranks second, with 66.7 percent saying they considered it the toughest problem.

Fear of the suppression of opposition groups by the Palestinian Authority and police ranks third, with 54.8 percent saying this is the issue most troubling them, and only 44.7 percent saying they are worried about rivalry between Palestinians in the territories and abroad.

The poll shows that more than half of the population (57.3 percent) views the Gaza-Jericho agreement favorably, with 39.6 percent saying the agreement is excellent and 17.7 percent saying it is fair. Some 39.2 percent said the agreement is unsatisfactory or bad. Gaza Strip and Jericho residents were more prone to take a positive view of the agreement than residents of the West Bank.

The residents of the territories seem to take a sympathetic view of the Palestinian police and security troops, with 50.6 percent believing they will treat all people equally and 16.8 percent believing they will suppress Palestinian opposition.

A change was registered on this issue among Hamas supporters in the Gaza Strip. In the poll conducted in December 1993, 53 percent of them believed the police would suppress the opposition, whereas only 12.3 percent of them held the same view in the current poll.

The pollsters note that most policemen in Gaza have relatives in the area and that this fact—in addition to the warm reception accorded them by the local population—made Hamas supporters change their mind.

As for the balance of power between the political organizations in the territories, support for Fatah increased 6.6 percent compared with the poll in April 1994, whereas support for Hamas declined 4.3 percent, particularly in the Gaza Strip. In the last months of 1993, polls had been showing a constant drop in support for Fatah.

The current poll shows support for Fatah was highest in the Gaza Strip (an average of 53.6 percent) and in Jericho (50 percent). Support for Hamas, the second largest political body in the territories, was highest—when compared with other areas—in Jericho (20 percent) and in Hebron (17.7 percent).

Nevertheless, a considerable number of respondents supported "independents" who are not identified with any political bodies but are believed to be pro-national or pro-Islamic. Support for these "independents" was more evident in the West Bank than in the Gaza Strip: 28.5 percent in East Jerusalem, 25.1 percent in Hebron, and 23.3 percent in Ramallah.

Asked how they would vote if general elections to the Palestinian council were held on the day of the poll, 44.4 percent said they would vote for Fatah, 12.3 percent for Hamas, 10.8 percent for pro- national independents, 4.7

percent for pro-Islamic independents, and 6.6 percent for the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine].

Support for all other organizations ranged from 1 to 3 percent. The total of people who would vote for the main opposition organizations (Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) came to 23.7 percent.

OPEC Affairs

Mid-Year Meeting in Deadlock Over Secretary General

AU1606130594 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Vienna, June 16 (AFP)—OPEC ministers struggled here Thursday [16 June] to break a political deadlock over the choice of a successor to outgoing OPEC Secretary General Subroto of Indonesia.

The front-running candidate for the office is former Venezuelan oil minister Alirio Parra, said to have the support of most of the 12 member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But Iran has proposed its current ambassador in Tokyo, Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, a veteran OPEC delegate.

Iran's oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, made it clear Wednesday he was maintaining Kazempor's candidacy, blocking a consensus in favour of Parra, and told reporters early Thursday he had "not changed" his position.

According to OPEC's statutes, the organization's top executive officer is appointed by unanimous decision of the OPEC conference for a period of three years that can be renewed only once.

Subroto, aged 66, a veteran Indonesian official who served for 10 years as Indonesia's mining and energy minister until he was named head of the OPEC secretariat in 1988, will be completing his second term by the end of June.

Some delegations were said to favour extending his appointment for six months as an interim solution, to give OPEC members time to sort out the problem by the time of their year-end conference scheduled to open here on November 16.

Another provisional solution mooted would provide for the current OPEC President, Libya's Oil Minister 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri to "supervise" the operations of the Vienna-based secretariat in cooperation with OPEC's Iraqi Deputy Secretary General, Ramzi Salman.

However, Kuwait made it clear at one point Thursday it would suspend any relations with OPEC if day-to-day operations at OPEC headquarters were left in the hands of an Iraqi national.

Conference sources meanwhile claimed Aqazadeh had been rebuffed by key members, including Saudi Arabia, when reportedly seeking guarantees that an Iranian would be appointed three years from now if Iran withdrew its present candidate to make way for Parra.

Under the statutes, the secretary general may be picked "on a rotational basis" for a two-year term, if a unanimous decision cannot be obtained. This happened frequently in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but then resulted in a stalemate because of the Iran- Iraq war.

When Marc Nan Nguema of Gabon left office in mid-1983, an Iranian was next in line, but his appointment was blocked by Iraq and its Arab neighbours.

As a consequence, then Deputy Secretary General Fadhil al- Chalabi, who happened to be an Iraqi, was left in charge of the secretariat until Subroto's appointment in June, 1988.

The choice of a new OPEC chief executive officer was the final point on the agenda of the ministers' mid-year meeting which opened here Wednesday.

They cleared their main business late Wednesday by agreeing to leave OPEC's overall oil production ceiling unchanged to year-end and to avoid any ministerial meetings before the next regular conference set for November 16.

The ministers reckon that this will encourage the recent uptrend in oil prices, since demand is expected to firm up towards the end of the year as economic recovery gains ground in industrial nations.

"Doing nothing may sometimes do the trick," a delegate commented.

Oil futures soared in New York after the ministers' decision late Wednesday, hitting a 12-month high of 19.86 dollars a barrel for the American benchmark light crude, WTI. But analysts here said this was mainly due to factors which had no bearing on the outcome of the OPEC talks.

In London, North Sea Brent prices at two months broke up through the 17-dollar mark early Thursday afternoon, as crude for August delivery briefly reached 17.04 dollars a barrel before stabilizing at 17.02, compared with 16.94 dollars at the Wednesday close.

Libyan Minister To 'Oversee' Affairs

AU1606132894 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Vienna, June 16 (AFP)—OPEC ministers failed to agree here Thursday [16 June] on the choice of a successor to OPEC Secretary General Subroto of Indonesia, delegates said.

Winding up a two-day meeting here, they agreed Libya's oil minister, 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, should oversee the activities of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries secretariat until the next ministerial meeting in November, Saudi Arabia's oil minister Hisham Nazir said.

Iranian Nominee Comments on Oil Issues

LD1606143094 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Tokyo, June 16, IRNA— Demands for oil across the world are expected to rise to 79 million barrels per day by the year 2010 from 65 million BPD at present, Iranian Ambassador to Japan Hosein Kazempur-Ardabili said Thursday [16 June].

The member states of the organization of petroleum exporting countries could meet more than 53 percent of the world's oil demands, he told IRNA.

The ambassador urged OPEC member states not to let political differences have adverse effect on their economic interests.

Kazempur, who has been nominated by Iran for the post of OPEC secretary general, said it would be regrettable to make any concession to buyers and let them buy this God-given gift at the lowest price just because of political differences.

He said the most important role that OPEC can play now was to prevent political differences among its members from having any adverse effects on their economic interests.

Kazempur felt confidence that by setting an oil output ceiling and taking into consideration the growing demands for oil, OPEC would soon witness considerable increase in the prices of oil provided that its members refrain from overproducing.

OPEC members are now meeting in Vienna to determine an oil production ceiling and elect OPEC's new secretary general.

Algeria

Dembri Clarifies Remarks on Western Sahara Solution

LD1606133594 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Algiers, June 16 (MAP)—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri confirmed Wednesday th[illegible]test remarks about the Sahara issue were not "perso[illegible].

Dembri had told Moroccan daily "L'OPINION" that a "political solution" to the Sahara issue within a Moroccan framework was possible without the referendum.

In a clarification statement to Algerian "EL MOUDJAHID" governmental daily, Dembri said the idea was not his and it was among the ideas raised in 1983 by "top Moroccan political personalities" and namely "the stamp and flag" formula.

"What was valid earlier can be accepted today", said head of the Algerian diplomacy, adding that several proposals were made including the idea of an international conference proposed again by Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity at the OAU summit of Tunis.

After recalling the difficulties facing the referendum, Dembri said it is possible that the referendum will confirm after all [illegible] political accord and stressed the need to give way to politic and diplomatic initiatives to get out of the impasse.

For Moroccan daily "L'OPINION", mouthpiece of the Istiqlal party, said Wednesday Algeria speaks a double language and wondered what Algeria really wants in the Sahara issue a "political solution" or the referendum.

FIS Leader Claims Zeroual Broke Agreement

PM1606114094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p4h

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Belhadj Attacks Zeroual and Accuses Him of 'Falsifying and Distorting Facts'"]

[Excerpts] London—The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has distributed the text of a letter sent by Cheikh Ali Belhadj from his prison in Blida to President Liamine Zeroual accusing him of breaking an agreement and of "distortion of facts, falsification, and fabrication." He was replying to a statement made by Zeroual over two months ago charging that FIS did not honor its promise to stop the violence. [passage omitted]

An informed Algerian source has told AL-HAYAH that the Algerian crisis "has reached a security and political climax," and that the number of people killed in the ranks of the Islamists and government forces "has reached 100 daily, and the poor channels of contact and dialogue which raised some hopes over the past six months have been closed."

The same source spoke of a meeting held between a former Algerian official, Islamist leaderships interested in Algerian affairs, and the FIS leadership abroad. He said that the meeting concluded that "the invisible [Algerian] leadership which toppled President Bendjedid and revoked the elections won by the FIS is the very same leadership which brought Zeroual to power, and that the escalation of violence against FIS supporters is done with the knowledge of that leadership and in accordance with its plans." The Algerian official disclosed to the FIS leadership "details of armed groups manipulated by security organs headed by Major General Mohamed Lemari who is continuing his work despite the recent changes in the Algerian Army." The source downplayed the French role which he described as "existent but not serious. Algeria is not Gabon and many things take place without Paris' approval." He emphasized that the all-out confrontation, the large-scale security operations, the summary executions, and reprisals against families of the mujahidin "all take place in accordance with a decision by the real command within the Army." [passage omitted]

Sources close to the FIS say that it is currently trying to unite its military ranks and intensify its political campaign. At the beginning of the current month it announced the formation of the Military Committee for the West [al-lajnah al-'askariyah lilgharb] and described that move as a "structuring of the FIS' military wing." This is the first time FIS has admitted the existence of its military wing. "It seems to be trying to block the way for the independent groups, especially the armed Islamic groups trying to inherit FIS' leading position in Algeria on the grounds that the FIS is a political party and has no military activity." [passage omitted]

Transitional National Council Elects Committee Heads

LD1606133894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Members of the Transitional National Council's 10 permanent committees were elected yesterday. The outcome of the vote was as follows:

1. Djamel Ould Abbes, chairman of the foreign and immigration committee.
2. Kacem Kebaier, chairman of the Legislative, Legal and Administrative Committee.
3. Tayeb Benyakoub, chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee.
4. Ammar Abdelsamad, chairman of the Agriculture, Irrigation and Environment Protection Committee.
5. Mohand Amokrane Haddadi, chairman of the Economic Committee.
6. Rachid Bakhouche, chairman of the Housing, Infrastracture and Habitat Committee.

7. Omar Berrama, chairman of the National Education, Higher Education and Technology Committee.
8. Abdelkader Benguerina, chairman of the Youth, Sport and Children Committee.
9. Abdelkader Merbah, chairman of the Cultural, Communication and Religious Endowment Committee.
10. Mrs. Saida Benhabiles, chairwoman of the Health, Social Affairs, Labor and Family Committee.

$110-Million World Bank Loan for Potable Water Systems

LD1706091094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] A $110-million loan agreement between the World Bank and Algeria was signed in Washington by Algerian Ambassador [to the United States] Noreddine Zerhouni and Daniel Richie, director of the Maghreb Department at the World Bank.

This agreement, which was approved by the World Bank board, will finance in hard currency the acquisition of technical equipment to modernize the drinking water systems in the following towns: Oran, Annaba, Ain Timouchent, Bejaia, Jijel, Mascra, Relizane, Setif, Sidi Bel Abbes, and Tlemcen.

Egypt

Mubarak on Crisis in Yemen, Arab-Israeli Peace

NC1606104594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Bucharest, 16 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that using force to preserve the unity of Yemen will not succeed.

In an interview with Romanian television last night, President Mubarak expressed regret over what is happening in Yemen.

Answering a question on his attempt to mediate in the current conflict in Yemen, President Mubarak said: I tried to mediate and exchange viewpoints with the Yemeni president, but he told me one thing and did another.

In his interview with the Romanian television, President Mubarak added: I feel sorry about what is happening in Yemen. I discussed this subject with the Yemeni president many times. He insists on keeping his country united. But unity cannot be realized through force. The use of force to preserve unity will not succeed.

He said they are currently trying to impose unity on the south, but they will not succeed because there will be a great deal of bloodshed and many victims, which is a terrible thing. He noted that this does not guarantee any kind of unity; unity is based on the agreement and blessings of the two peoples. The will of the people must triumph, not the will of bombs, weapons, and bloodshed. Such situations do absolutely nothing to create unity.

On peace in the Middle East between Israel—an economically strong country—and the fledgling Palestinian state—which is practically starting from scratch—President Mubarak said that despite the fact that there are two countries with different growth rates, they are cooperating without any problems. In addition, the region is bursting with potential.

He added that there are many possibilities, but it is too soon to discuss these issues. We are currently concentrating on the peace process and the Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese issues.

He pointed out that when agreement with these countries is reached and applied, we will then think about and study ways and means of cooperation in the region. It is only natural for us to expect difficulties in the beginning; however, we cannot sit back and say that Israel is a strong country and the others are not. It is not right to succumb to this factor.

Answering a question about his view of the other aspects of the peace process, President Mubarak said in his interview that, on the whole, Jordan is not the one causing complications in the process. He said: I believe that Jordan is currently negotiating with Israel. I hope they will reach some agreement in the near future.

He added that with respect to Syria: I have repeatedly said that without the return of the Golan Heights to the Syrians, it is very difficult to think of the possibility of concluding a bilateral agreement. I have heard statements by Israeli officials to the effect that they will not budge an inch on the Golan Heights. True, such statements have not been made by Yitzhaq Rabin himself, but there are other officials who are making such statements.

Mubarak clarified that the problem between the Syrians and Israelis lies in the absence of mutual trust. I hope these obstacles will be overcome this year, he said. I also hope that some understanding can be reached over the Golan Heights.

In response to a question regarding his optimism about Syrian-Israeli negotiations, President Mubarak said: I am optimistic because there is no other alternative. We will help the Syrians any time they ask for help; we will spare no efforts in this respect.

Asked whether instability in the Middle East basically results from extremist Islamic movements, President Mubarak said that there is no problem in Egypt because it has deep roots and several religions have survived in Egypt for thousands of years. We are capable of overcoming any crisis. We have encountered crises before; this one poses no problems for Egypt. He said: There are several problems in certain Middle Eastern countries; but I do not believe that the extremists are successful, because most people are against the extremists. We will overcome this problem, although it may take some time.

When asked about his views on the real danger to world peace at present, President Mubarak said that the Americans and French may have more specific views regarding the international situation. As for Europe, he said that the situation in Yugoslavia and Bosnia poses an extremely serious problem, noting that a solution to the Bosnian problem is imminent. He said that at one time there was a plan to isolate the Muslims of Bosnia, which would be an extremely serious matter. He stated that it is very serious to isolate the Muslims even though they have long been allowed to coexist with other peoples of different religions. He noted that if the Muslims find themselves isolated, it may plant a time bomb in the heart of Europe. He noted that the French and British share this view, adding: I think they have avoided this danger and efforts are under way to find a solution. I hope they will find one.

On the situation in Rwanda, President Mubarak said that two tribes are fighting each other there and one of them has accused Egypt of supplying arms to the other one. He stressed that Egypt is not supplying arms to either side. He noted that we had a contract last year and it was fulfilled before the crisis erupted. Another contract was signed before the crisis, but Egypt froze it when the fighting broke out.

On the long-standing Romanian-Egyptian relations, particularly in the wake of the political developments in Romania during the past four years, President Mubarak said: We were concerned at first about the situation in Romania. He said: We have always maintained good ties with Romania and we were concerned that the situation there might deteriorate seriously, but it transpired that the situation has changed for the better, which is very important. He said: We have traditionally had good relations with the Romanian people. I am very happy that the Romanians are proceeding along the right path. He stressed that Egyptian-Romanian ties are currently extremely good, as they have always been, and he noted that the recent slowdown in relations was not prompted by Egypt but by the changes that occurred in Romania. He said he wished to visit Bucharest soon, noting that his last visit to Romania was a long time ago.

Guard Killed, Two Wounded in Asyut Shooting

NC1606175494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—A guard was killed today and two others were wounded in Asyut when unidentified people opened fire at them at a checkpoint in Manfalut district.

A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry explained that at about 1100 today, unidentified people opened fire at guardsmen Rayyan Ahmad Muhammad, Salihin 'Abd-al-Hamid Jum'ah, and 'Abd-al-Nazir 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasanayn, who work at the Umm al-Qusur police station in Manfalut district.

The source said that the first guardsman was killed in the incident and the two others were wounded and taken to the hospital in Manfalut for treatment.

Commanders of the Asyut security directorate, criminal investigation personnel, and criminal laboratory experts went to the scene of the incident, and the prosecution was informed to begin an investigation.

14 Detainees in Lawyers Incidents Released

NC1606174394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—The Central Cairo Prosecution today released 14 people, including 10 lawyers, and decided to continue the detention of 19 others, including 17 lawyers, for another 15 days. Their detention was extended to continue their questioning regarding the incidents that took place at the lawyers syndicate on 17 May.

The prosecution had leveled against all of them charges of assembly, demonstration, shouting antiregime slogans, and attacking some policemen.

Defense Minister, PRC Commander Discuss Issues

NC1606180094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, armed forces commander in chief and minister of defense and war production, today received General Cao Shuangming, commander of the Chinese Air Force and defenses, who is currently visiting Cairo at the head of a military delegation to discuss developing bilateral military cooperation.

They discussed several topics of mutual interest between the two countries' armed forces.

China's ambassador in Cairo and several Armed Forces commanders attended the meeting. During his stay, the Chinese official is scheduled to attend some activities of the air and air defense forces.

Daily Denounces Yemeni Leaders for Continuing War

NC1706070994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR denounces Yemeni leaders for continuing to ignore the reality of what they are doing, not only to their homeland but also to the Arab and Islamic world. These leaders continue to tamper with the future of coming generations, who will never forgive them for the innocent blood they shed and the installations and utilities they destroyed, which belong to all the Yemeni people.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR states that Egypt and its leader Husni Mubarak advised Yemeni leaders to

use dialogue to settle the Yemeni crisis and has repeatedly warned against resorting to arms, particularly between brothers. It points out that the fate of a homeland and people must not be decided by officials who are controlled by arrogance and personal whims. It says that a leader who is not concerned about the interests of his homeland and people is unworthy of his post and he had better look for another job in the interest of his people.

Minister Notes Service of Foreign Debts

NC1706082794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—The Egyptian Central Bank's latest report emphasizes that the annual service of Egypt's foreign debts totalled 2.5 billion dollars at the end of March 1993. This sum amounts to 12 percent of the revenue of foreign currencies, part of which is used to service foreign debts. In a statement to AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM newspaper, Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, pointed out that the safe limit regarding the service of foreign debt must not exceed 24 percent, noting that there is a surplus of approximately 9 percent as an additional margin to the safe limit.

Dr. Ghali pointed out that the volume of serving Egypt's foreign debts in 1987 reached 52 percent of the revenue of foreign currency. He expected that the service of Egypt's foreign debts in the next five years will drop to 6 percent of the revenue of foreign currency if the size of foreign debts maintains its ratio and if the current rate of borrowing remains unchanged.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Secretary Lauds OAU Support

LD1606113894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, Jun 16—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has stressed the Great Jamahiriyah's appreciation for the great support it received from the heads of African states participating in the proceedings of the 30th OAU summit that ended in Tunis yesterday.

He referred to the two resolutions of the 60th session of the African states' foreign ministers and the 30th session of heads of African states, which both supported the Great Jamahiriyah's position in its crisis with the Western states.

The brother secretary said that the explicit support that we have received from this conference has made this crisis an African crisis, and he stressed the importance of the resolutions of the African summit, which represents the will of 35 African states who are UN members.

He praised the efforts of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and their foreign ministers, in crystallizing the African stance on the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western states. He called for work to continue to implement the resolution issued by the African summit in this regard.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation stressed that the border problem between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad had been solved once and for all, culminating in the signing of a pact of good neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries.

He explained that Libya was a country that respected the law and international laws, pointing out that the Great Jamahiriyah had undertaken to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice regarding the Aouzou strip and to resolve its border problem with Chad.

He said that the Great Jamahiriyah had implemented a ruling of the International Court of Justice for the third time, which confirmed that Libya abided by the laws issued by the International Court of Justice. He pointed out that it was the great powers who refused to implement the decisions issued by such courts, observing that some of these states had broken international laws in the past and had failed to implement laws issued by the international body [words indistinct] that Libya knows who is above the law and who actually respects the law.

OAU Reportedly Calls For End to Sanctions

LD1606173994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] OAU leaders and member governments yesterday unanimously called for the lifting of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah. Moreover, they expressed their appreciation for the positive initiatives presented by the Jamahiriyah with a view to solving its crisis with western states.

At the end of OAU's 30th summit held in Tunis, African leaders adopted a resolution, issued by the Arab League, which called for the two suspects in the Lockerbie affair to be put on trial at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice. The African leaders stressed that this proposal was the suitable solution to this crisis and appealed in their resolution to the concerned western states to respond to initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiations to reach a settlement of the crisis, according to the sixth chapter of the UN charter which calls for the conflicts to be solved via negotiations and legal settlement.

Further on Opposition to Sanctions

LD1606191594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] JANA's local affairs editor has said that the African consensus expressed by the OAU was a clear and

frank support to the Great Jamahiriyah from 53 African countries. [passage omitted]

These stances could then be considered as a consensus of the majority of world countries in support of the Great Jamahiriyah's position regarding a solution to its crisis with Western states. These stances express the real will of the international community and expose Western countries' stance which use their domination of the UN Security Council to [word indistinct] international resolutions and claim they express the will of the international community.

The editor said that this international consensus, in support of the great Jamahiriyah and which calls for the lifting of the unjust measures imposed on it by Western countries in the name of the UN Security Council, once again exposed the truth of this council and revealed the isolation in which these countries now find themselves against the voices of the world's countries, people, organizations, as well as political, cultural, and prominent social figures who expressed their true stances in support of the Great Jamahiriyah, not the stances fabricated in their names in the so-called Security Council under threats and blackmail from Western countries which dominate this Council.

Furthermore, the international community, embodied in these countries and organizations, demand that the UN Security Council acts with respect to the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and Western countries, according to the provisions of the sixth chapter of the UN Charter, because this is the right direction toward finding a solution to this crisis and toward an end to be put to the fallacy and the dilemma in which the council had fallen when it acted according to Article 7 of the UN Charter, an act that was a breach of this charter and an insult to the conscience and values of the international community and a falsification of its will.

African Leaders Arrive for Regional Talks

Niger President Makes Statement

LD1506194394 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 15 Jun (JANA)—Niger President Mahamane Ousmane and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli today for a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. An official welcoming ceremony was accorded to the president of Niger. Colonel 'Abu Bakr Jabir Yunis led the welcoming delegation. [passage omitted]

President Ousmane made a statement to the Jamahiriyah News Agency (JANA) in which he expressed happiness for his visit to the great Jamahiriyah. Ousmane affirmed that his visit falls within the framework of bolstering relations and cooperation in all areas between the two countries.

President Ousmane reiterated his country's support for the great Jamahiriyah in the face of the unjust sanctions, imposed through the so-called the Security Council. He noted that the Libyan people are a fraternal people. Ousmane said Niger is affected by anything that harms Libya. He called for the lifting of the unjust sanctions. [passage omitted]

Burkina Faso's Campaore Arrives

LD1506193494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 15 Jun (JANA)—Burkina Faso President Captain Blaise Campaore and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. An official welcome was laid on for President Campaore. Leading the welcoming committee was Colonel 'Abu Bakr Jabir Yunis. [passage omitted]

Malian Seeks To 'Consolidate' Ties

LD1606210394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Alpha Oumar Konare, president of the Republic of Mali, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

President Alpha Oumar Konare made a statement to JANA on arrival in which he said:

[Begin Konare recording, in French with superimposed Arabic translation] It is with great pleasure that I am paying this visit to fraternal Libya. It is normal that we hold consultations regularly on all problems of concern to us. I was here in Libya a few months ago and I felt all the interest and friendship that Libya and its high-ranking officials devote to Mali. It is with the will to further consolidate these relations that I am here with an important delegation. There are no taboo subjects between Libya and us, and we have a common desire to protect our countries' interests. I am convinced that this visit will further consolidate the very good relations between us. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Presidents

LD1606211894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution met this evening with Burkina Faso President Blaise Campaore, Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare, and the Niger President Mahamane Ousmane.

The meeting was attended by the brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and the brother secretary of the general People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the foreign ministers of Burkina, Mali, and Niger.

Among the issues of common concern raised in tonight's talks were aspects of cooperation in various fields and developments in Africa.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Banquet

LD1706085394 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] hosted a dinner banquet last night in honor of Presidents Blaise Campaore, president of Burkina Faso, Alpha Oumar Konare, president of the Republic of Mali, and Mahamane Ousmane, president of the Republic of Niger, and the delegations accompanying them. The banquet was also attended by the secretary and members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, in addition to the heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and a number of army officers.

The brother leader of the revolution delivered a speech at the banquet and began by welcoming the leaders of these Islamic African states, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The leader said that the Libyan people welcome and appreciate the solidarity of their African brethren and this solidarity reinforces the position of the Libyan people in confronting the conspiracy led by the three colonial western states.

The leader added: The triumph of the will of the peoples of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso strengthens freedom and democracy. He also warned that the colonial western states are still involved in creating problems and hardship for those countries where the nationalist movements were victorious. He pointed out that it has become clear that the colonial western states which were accusing Libya of being behind the destabilization of the African continent were in fact themselves working hard to destabilize the situation in the African continent and prevent the latter from building itself.

The leader further said: The peoples of the Third World, whom the colonial western states are trying to force to surrender, have decided to resist and the West must understand this. He added: The West is now using the United Nations, after it tore up its Charter and trampled on its laws, as a neocolonialist means in the same way it used the League of Nations in the past to impose its mandate on the peoples of the Third World.

The brother leader warned: This trend which the western states are entrenching is a dangerous trend for the peoples of the world, will turn the world into a jungle, and will be responsible for its collapse.

Dissident's Wife Comments, Travels to Tripoli

NC1606190594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Nihad al-'Umari, wife of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya left for the Libyan capital of Tripoli this morning after receiving an invitation from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi following her repeated appeals to locate her missing husband.

Our correspondent in Paris, Rula al-Zayn, met al-'Umari and had this conversation with her before she left for the Libyan capital.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Umari] Two weeks ago, I received and accepted an invitation after talking to the French lawyer Michel Juber, who advised me to accept the invitation. Mr. al-Qadhdhafi will do his best, he promised me in his recent letters, to look for my husband, who is a Libyan citizen.

[Al-Zayn] Have the Egyptian authorities answered your questions on the circumstances of the abduction?

[Al-'Umari] The Egyptian authorities initially acknowledged that Mansur was abducted, which is a known fact because he was attending an official conference. Afterward, they never talked about the incident. On the contrary, President Mubarak tried, as they say, to absolve himself of responsibility. From the legal point of view, since he was abducted from Cairo, Egypt is the prime responsible party to me and to the world.

I wrote to ministers and French President Mitterrand and received a reply from Foreign minister Alain Juppe. A week ago, I received another message from Alain Juppe and President Clinton. In his message, President Clinton told me that they will not fail to pressure Egypt to discover the obscure facts. [end recording]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Hails U.S. Moves; SPLM Names Council

PM1706083094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Kamal Hamid in Khartoum and Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in London: "Garang Announces Formation of Executive Council To Run the 'Liberated Areas'; Al-Bashir: Washington Deals With Us Positively for the First Time"]

[Excerpts] Commenting on U.S. President Bill Clinton's Special Envoy Melissa Wells' visit to Sudan, Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir said that "for the first time, the White House is dealing with Sudan directly and positively."

Meanwhile, Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], has announced the formation of a "National Executive Council" which has 27 members and has the task of running the areas under SPLM control in the south of the country.

Al-Bashir described Wells' visit, which was concluded yesterday, as "evidence of U.S. President Bill Clinton's special interest in what happens in Sudan." He added in press statements during his weekly meeting with the media that "Washington is dealing with Khartoum positively for the first time." [passage omitted]

Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din has told AL-HAYAH that "Wells explained her mission of boosting the peace efforts and ensuring relief for the victims of the civil war, but she did not broach relations between the two countries." But Salah-al-Din, who held a long meeting with the U.S. envoy, said that "some other points over which the United States had been critical of the government" were also raised.

He saw the visit as "a new development in relations between the two countries replacing the policy of attack, accusation, and pursuit we felt in the past."

Meanwhile, SPLM sources have stated that the new 27-member "National Executive Council" has been entrusted with "the role of actual civilian authority in the areas under SPLM control." They added that the announcement of the council marked the beginning of changes "which are fundamental in the context of the New Sudan" declared by the SPLM's first conference last March.

They added that the Council will administer "the liberated areas." Garang kept the defense portfolio for himself in addition to the chairmanship of the council. Commander Silva Kir, his deputy, got the foreign and interior portfolios, Deng Alore the state's affairs portfolio, Dr. Justin Yak the health portfolio, Commander Yusuf Kuwa the affairs of Kurdufan (district), Daniel Kudi environment and tourism affairs, Laurence Wall education affairs, Arthur Queen human affairs, and Dr. Peter Nute Cole legal affairs [names as transliterated]. Five governors were also appointed for the provinces of Kurdufan, Upper Nile, Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal, and Blue Nile. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Daily Sees 'Disaster' in Yemeni 'Secession'

JN1706084594 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Once Again, No to Secession"]

[Text] Many tense observers of the Yemeni war do not want to consider reality. They are ignoring the objective facts that put this war in its correct perspective and uncover the culprits who led Yemen to this disaster.

Cards and whims have been confused and the only tune that is heard is the tune of secession fed by those who urge a halt to the fighting in order to entrench a dreadful reality as though the only way to salvage Yemen is to slay and dismember it.

The claim that there is a war between the north and the south is not supported by the facts on the ground. On the contrary, the fasts point out that Yemen, south and north, is waging war against a misguided group that does not represent the south but is controlling its fate and imposing on its children a stand that does not conform to their interests and convictions. A glance at the names of the military commanders who are leading the forces that are advancing to defeat the secession confirms that the vast majority of the south rejects the adventure, or rather the plot, of secession which seeks to cancel the idea of unity and obliterate the last hope of restoring factors of Arab existence in the face of a bigger plot that aims to usurp Arab land, resources, identity, and history from Arab sovereignty.

In a field count of the southern military commanders who are waging the battle of defending the honor of belonging to a unified Yemen, we read the following names: Defense Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Hadi Mansur, central axis commander Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, eastern front commander Colonel Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, Colonel 'Abdallah Mansur, Colonel Salim 'Ali Qutun, Colonel Muhammad Tumays, Colonel Salih Ahmad al-Harithi, Colonel Ahmad 'Ali Muhsin, and Colonel Ahmad al-'Akrub. All of these are from the southern governorates, joined by tribal men from Shabwah and Abyan governorates. Indeed, some of the military forces that were fighting within the southern ranks joined the northern forces when the Socialist Party revealed its intentions and declared secession.

Does not all this reveal the facts of the Yemeni events and uncover the falseness of the secession which fell at home before reinforcements came from abroad?

Saudi Arabia

Leaders Meet With South Yemen al-'Attas

LD1706095094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 16 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his residence outside the city of Jeddah today Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas who was accompanied by 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. [passage omitted]

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1812 GMT on 16 June, in a Jeddah-datelined item, adds: "His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, received at his highness's palace in Jeddah this afternoon Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj."]

Yemen

House Speaker Reiterates Government Stand on Crisis

JN1606135094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar has reiterated that the approach the political leadership, the government, and the legislative council in the Republic of Yemen adopt to settle the current crisis is that of the Yemeni people. This approach is embodied in the fact that Yemeni unity is the fate and lot of the people, and that this unity should not be harmed and is not subject to bargaining. He said the state welcomes and does not reject dialogue with any party, if this dialogue deals with Yemeni unity, the establishment of this unity, and with legitimacy, democracy, and political pluralism. Those who reject this are infidels.

This came at a news conference by the brother House of Representatives speaker today and attended by local, Arab, and foreign correspondents in Sanaa.

House of Representatives Speaker brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar emphasized that the Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy are confronting the forces of apostasy and secession, and that the Yemeni people from all walks of life support their Armed Forces. He explained that the forces of apostasy and secession have imposed war on our people, something our people do not want. He said the secessionists cannot have some of their illusions realized because Yemeni unity is a fact, the fruit of the struggle of the Yemeni people, their response to the Yemeni revolution's objectives, and the nucleus of comprehensive Arab unity.

Presidential Council Member Visits Aden Bases

EA1606195094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, this morning inspected the air force and air defense headquarters, where he was briefed on the battle operations and the role of the pilots in implementing their responsibilities of defending the homeland and its achievements, and of foiling the plans of the enemy on the various fronts. The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council praised the pilots' efforts to protect democratic Yemen's airspace, and to prevent the enemy forces from achieving their military aims.

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri also visited the families of victims of the barbarous indiscriminate shelling suffered by a number of residential districts in the capital, Aden, which came from the forces of the military regime in Sanaa and resulted in the deaths and wounding of 30 women, children, elderly persons, and peaceful civilians. Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, expressed his sorrow and condolences at these horrible massacres perpetrated against the peaceful residents of the capital, Aden. The brother chairman of the Presidential Council then visited the naval command, saw for himself the fighting morale of the naval officers and enlisted men, and observed their intrepid role in supporting their brothers in the Armed Forces in repulsing and defeating the invading forces.

President Salih Visits al-Yarmuk Army Camp

JN1606193894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today visited the al-Yarmuk Forces camp. He was welcomed upon arrival by the brother officers, NCO's, and enlisted personnel. The brother leader met with them. They briefed him on their situation. He was also acquainted with the progress of the training, qualification, and instruction under way at the camp.

The army personnel affiliated with the al-Yarmuk Forces expressed their happiness with this visit by the brother leader president, which embodies his care for the Armed Forces personnel. This visit shows that he is interested in knowing about their concerns, and also that he loves them, the al-Yarmuk Forces personnel added. This concern by the brother president, they noted, will strengthen their resolve to perform their sacred nationalist duties. They reiterated their constant readiness to make dear sacrifices to vindicate the people's wish of safeguarding unity, defending the homeland's sovereignty and independence in the face of all challenges and dangers [words indistinct] along the path of faith in God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity, trust in [words indistinct] unity, and safeguarding all the gains and accomplishments the Yemeni people have achieved since the inception of the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October.

In their meeting with the brother leader, the al-Yarmuk Forces personnel reaffirmed that they will continue to do their utmost to realize the wishes of our people. They also said that they will continue their efforts to vindicate right and the homeland, unafraid of death and unreluctant to perform their duty under all circumstances, and regardless of the challenges entailed. They indicated that unity is the fate and destiny of our Yemeni people. They added that they will not abandon it regardless of the price and sacrifices entailed, because there can be no future for the Yemeni homeland without unity. They noted that the Armed Forces, which have always been in the forefront of the patriotic elements that vindicated the people's wishes with regard to the revolution and liberation from the [words indistinct], theocratic rule and colonial rule, are currently the hardened tool that is firmly confronting the conspiratorial schemes targeting Yemen and its unity, and aborting this secessionist plan engineered by the rebellious and separatist forces, which fuelled fighting and war in the homeland and sought to tear national unity apart and destroy the homeland in order to realize their selfish interests.

For his part, brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih addressed the officers, NCO's, and enlisted personnel of the al-Yarmuk Forces, hailing the heroic feats forged by our valiant Armed Forces in the battle to vindicate the people's wishes of safeguarding unity and democracy. He commended the [words indistinct] demonstrated by the al-Yarmuk Forces, who forged splendid feats of sacrifice. He indicated that our Armed Forces' performance has been irreproachable in their confrontation of the challenges the renegades rebelling against the homeland attempted to force on us with the aim of tearing the homeland apart. He added: But, thanks to God's will, the steadfastness of our people and their rallying around their Armed Forces, these criminal schemes targeting the homeland and its unity have been resisted. He noted the rebellious gang's criminal practices against our people in the valiant city of Aden, where various forms of torture and oppression are being perpetrated against citizens. Children and women are being forcibly extricated from their houses and made to bear arms [words indistinct] innocent citizens are being sent to the war fronts and used as human shields. He affirmed that these criminals will not go unpunished. They will receive the legal punishment they deserve for the crimes they are committing against the homeland and the people. He asserted that our Armed Forces have always been, and will always remain the homeland's impregnable shield that protects the homeland from all challenges and dangers. They are the conscientious guardians who will confront any tamperers who seek to sabotage the homeland's accomplishments, security, and stability.

In his speech, the brother president also reviewed the overall current developments on the national scene. He

noted our country's reiteration of its commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 924. He also mentioned the various cease-fire gestures it made toward the rebels to halt Yemeni bloodshed, saying that five cease-fire initiatives were made. Nonetheless, the rebels violated the cease-fire every time, and continued their attacks against our Armed Forces, thus violating and disregarding the UN Security Council resolution in defiance of the wishes of the Yemeni people and the international community, as well.

President Salih reiterated that, by so doing, the criminal rebels seek to internationalize the Yemeni crisis, which is a domestic Yemeni affair. He added that the current fighting is a battle raging between the entire Yemeni people and a misled and isolated minority rebelling against constitutional legitimacy and the Yemeni people's will, which was expressed when the Republic of Yemen was proclaimed on 22 May 1990, when a public referendum endorsed the Constitution, and also when free and direct parliamentary elections were held on 27 April 1993.

The brother president added: Yemeni unity is embedded within the consciences of all Yemeni people. It is our fate and destiny, and our way to achieve a prosperous (?independence). Unity was achieved through a peaceful and democratic dialogue that went on for many long years. It was not achieved by force. It is the embodiment of the will of all Yemenis throughout the homeland. Our people have waged protracted struggles, and made dear and great sacrifices to achieve their unity on 22 May. He affirmed that there can be no going back on unity, and that fragmentation, regardless of any form or shape it might take, has become a thing of the past. Our people's struggle for unity has been baptized with blood and dear sacrifices. They will not agree to relive the tragedies, calamities, and nightmares of fragmentation once again. The close- knit Yemeni people have been brought together. The river of unity has overflown, producing abundance, affection, and prosperity for all sons of the Yemeni homeland. Those opposed to unity and the will of the people must flee this homeland, which will not accept within its ranks and under its skies any people other than unity- orientated people, who have faith in God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity; who support their people and homeland; who are loyal to their causes; and who reject all temptations that seek to undermine the homeland, its unity, its gains, and its accomplishments.

The brother leader president concluded by invoking God's mercy on the souls of the righteous martyrs of our people and their valiant Armed Forces, who have shed their blood to vindicate the homeland and allow the banners of unity to flutter in the skies of the entire Yemeni homeland. He indicated that their dear sacrifices will allow our people to build a more prosperous future for the homeland under the banners of unity and democracy.

Salih Briefs UAE's Zayid, Syria's al-Asad

JN1606174594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Telephone calls were held this evening between Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brothers Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the two telephone conversations, the brother president informed the two leaders of the situation in our country. He also briefed them on the issues raised with Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 924, which concerns the situation in our country.

Salih Said To Accept 'Immediate' Cease-Fire

NC1606183094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] news agency has reported that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today that he accepts an immediate cease-fire and formation of a military committee comprising northern and southern, Arab, and foreign officers.

UN Envoy Outlines Steps To Resolve Crisis

PM1606135494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Brahimi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Three Steps To Resolve Yemeni Crisis; They Begin With Cease-Fire"]

[Text] Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, has emphasized that the situation in Yemen is not easy. However, he said that both sides are aware that the situation is very serious and that the Yemenis could lose control of the situation if matters continue as they stand and if the war is not brought to an end quickly.

Brahimi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his stopover in Amman that the reality of the past four years has created very difficult conditions, and that the failure of the attempts to secure a solution over these years has made matters more difficult.

The international envoy defined three phases for his current mission:

First, the two parties must be convinced that the fighting will lead to nothing but ruin and destruction, and that its continuation would cause the Yemenis to lose control of the situation.

Second, after everyone reaches this conviction, they must be convinced that the solution lies in dialogue and that reaching an understanding through dialogue is the only way to resolve the Yemeni crisis.

Third, if the first two steps are achieved and the two sides sit at the negotiating table, certainly every party is going to bring its conditions with it...and we will talk about it then.

Sanaa: Contacts Held With 'Moderate' YSP Leaders

PM1606152494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah, Hani Naqshabandi, Salih Qallab, and Hanan al-Badri: "Sanaa: Aden Is a Must, Even If the War Continues"]

[Excerpts] While Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, continues to race against time to avert what he described as a big tragedy that would afflict Yemen if the fighting between northern and southern forces is not halted, Yemeni Defense Minister Colonel 'Abd-Rabbuh Hadi has stated that Sanaa is determined to enter Aden. He also stressed that the leadership in the north is discussing how to storm the city without harming its residents. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Salam al-'Anasi, member of the General People's Congress General Committee, has revealed that Sanaa has made contacts with Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders whom it described as moderate both before and after the war broke out.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-'Anasi listed the names of some of these leaders. They include Salim Salih Muhammad, the No. 2 in the YSP, and Dr. Yasir Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Central Committee secretariat.

Al-'Anasi said that Sanaa is offering concessions "from a strong position and for the sake of sparing Yemeni blood." He stressed that Sanaa's basic conditions still stand, especially with regard to incriminating the 16 people who declared and have perpetuated the secession, including YSP leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

But 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil, member of the YSP Political Bureau and member of the Yemeni parliament speakership, has stressed that Sanaa knows that there are concessions it is going to make regarding these people. However, he ruled out the YSP's backtracking on the decision to secede.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Muqbil said that the appointment of northerners in the new Aden government confirms that the YSP does not rule out the possibility of returning to unity once again.

He said that the state proclaimed in the south is a preparation for a new state under unity.

He stressed that Sanaa tacitly agrees to the presence of international observers, but it fears that that might perpetuate the secession. [passage omitted]

'Official Source' Decries South's 'Fabricated Reports'

JN1706060194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0447 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] An official source has asserted that the rebellious and traitorous gang no longer has influence on foreign public opinion apart from its false wailing and spreading of fabricated reports on indiscriminate artillery and missile bombardment of residential areas in the valiant city of Aden. This gang also talks about victims among the innocent citizens after having used up its lies about the shelling of vital and economic installations.

The precise details of the situation are now known in Aden, whether regarding the acts of repression, killings, and persecution carried out by the rebellious gang and those who encroached upon legitimacy against innocent citizens in all areas and neighborhoods, or regarding the involvement of children and girls in acts from which men, soldiers, and officers, who are mortgaged and linked to the rebels, have fled after finding out the truth and having been overwhelmed by immense despair.

Likewise, the citizens' position is known toward these gangs, which are obsessed with blood and with creating catastrophes in order to terrorize and humiliate the citizens. Meanwhile, these gangs transferred their entire families from Aden by sea despite the will of the ships that arrived in the port of Aden to transfer foreigners from Aden. This fact is also well known by the steadfast and enduring citizens in Aden.

The source found it strange that some Arab media carried these reports along with old pictures and other repeated pictures that were not taken in Aden. These media were so hostile and reckless that they carried televised clips showing the dead and wounded from Sanaa, al-Rahidah, Zinjibar, and other cities as a result of the Scud missiles fired by the rebellious criminals. These media, however, claimed that these clips showed victims of the alleged indiscriminate shelling of residential areas in Aden.

Concluding his statement, the source asserted that this worn out card, which depends on lies and fabrication, will undoubtedly catch fire and turn into ashes, exactly like other cards. No doubt, lies are short-lived, he added.

Aden Citizens Warned To Avoid Strategic Locations

JN1706053394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0505 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Statement and warning issued by the Aden Axis Command to the brother citizens in the city of Aden:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Aden Axis Command warns and draws the attention of the brother citizens in Aden to avoid the following areas: Aden airport, Badr Camp, the naval forces berth, the radio and television buildings, the operations center in al-Sawwahi in the so-called Defense Ministry, the

[Yemeni Socialist Party] Central Committee headquarters, al-Ma'ashiq area, and all the camps inside Aden, out of concern for the safety of all citizens and their precious lives. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy will have to deal with these positions and camps because the gang of rebellion against the constitutional legitimacy is not abiding by the cease-fire and continues to attack the positions and camps of the forces of unity and legitimacy.

The Aden Axis Command is confident that all honorable brother citizens in Aden will heed this appeal and warning and keep away from these positions and camps.

Phone Lines Fixed Except to Gulf States, Egypt

JN1706094094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 17 Jun (INA)—The Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Center in Sanaa has announced that telephone communications between Yemen and the world have resumed except those with the Gulf regimes and Egypt.

It is noteworthy that the telephone and telegraph lines inside Yemen were cut for several days after fighting broke out on 5 May. A week later, domestic communications resumed while Yemen's international telephone communications remained cut.

Six Killed in Attacks, Japanese Trawler Hit in Aden

LD1706105494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The northern forces this morning resumed their shelling of the city of Aden and the suburb of Dar Sa'd and fired a number of Katyusha rockets and artillery shells. Six people were killed and 15 others were injured in the attacks. Maritime sources in Aden have reported that a trawler flying the Japanese flag has been hit by a shell in the port of Aden and that fire has been raging aboard the ship until 1000 this morning Kuwaiti time. [passage omitted]

Authorities Said To Arrest Saudi-Recruited Saboteurs

JN1706105994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 17 Jun (INA)—The Yemeni security forces have arrested a saboteur whom the Saudi authorities sent to carry out acts of sabotage in Yemen as part of the Saudi conspiracy against Yemeni unity and the Saudi support for the secessionists in southern Yemen.

An informed Yemeni security source told an Iraqi News Agency correspondent in Sanaa today that the security forces last night arrested one of the Saudi regime's agents after he blew up a house in the area of Bajil, approximately 50 km east of the eastern al-Hudaydah Governorate.

The source explained that the explosion killed one citizen and wounded seven others. He also revealed that the security authorities arrested three other saboteurs who confessed they were recruited by the Saudi authorities to carry out bombings in Yemen. They were arrested after their recent arrival from Saudi Arabia, he added.

Southern Forces Halt Northern Advance Near Aden

LD1706111894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1032 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, 17 Jun (KUNA)—A South Yemeni military official told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA this afternoon that there was renewed fighting this morning between northern and southern forces on the Abyan front, 35 km east of Aden, and that the battles are still raging.

He added that southern jets intensified their air attacks on northern positions on the front since they carried out over 20 air sorties between 0630 and 1200 [0330-0900 GMT] today during which they succeeded in halting the advance of the northern forces toward a southern military point in Dufays, near Aden.

The south Yemeni official said that the southern artillery destroyed two positions of the northern forces, five tanks, and three other armored vehicles. He did not however give details on southern losses.

'Scores' of Government Casualties Claimed in South

NC1606182594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tyrant Saddam's authorities have declared a state of emergency in the (?west) of al-Nasiriyah Governorate in southern Iraq following an attack by one the Islamic resistance forces mujahidin on the command headquarters of [words indistinct] on 3 June. Scores of officers and men of the tyrant's forces were killed and wounded and [words indistinct].

Reporting this from southern Iraq, our sources said the authorities intensified the presence of their forces in al-Nasiriyah and nearby cities and villages in the marshlands in an attempt to isolate the city center from surrounding areas. The sources added that the authorities imposed a three-day curfew on the city center and main streets where the regime's departments and [word indistinct] and security agencies are located. [passage omitted]

The sources said the security and intelligence agencies, the ruling party services, and emergency forces launched an extensive campaign of arrests in which a large number of citizens in al-Nasiriyah and its suburbs were arrested. [passage omitted]

In a later report from southern Iraq, our sources affirmed that security conditions in al-Nasiriyah Governorate have worsened. They said residents of that rebellious governorate are defying the regime's measures and that many incidents occurred during which clashes happened between angry citizens and the regime forces resulting in deaths and injuries on both sides. [passage omitted]

Officers Reportedly Killed in Baghdad Rebel Attack

NC1606184194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] [Words indistinct] early this month used hand grenades in attacking the car of [words indistinct]. The tyrant party's official in the area who was sitting next to the district commissioner suffered serious wounds. The attack follows an escalated campaign of random arrests in the district in which scores of innocent people were taken in.

Elsewhere, in retaliation for a campaign of arrests in Baghdad in recent months, a member of the Islamic revolution mujahidin launched a hand-grenade attack on [word indistinct] headquarters of the tyrant's security forces in al-Nahdah Garage in central Baghdad. Three officers of the command post—Post Commander Major Tahsin, Captain Khamis, and First Lieutenant [name indistinct] from al-'Awja village, who is a relative of criminal Husayn Kamil—were killed in the attack. The contents of the post were destroyed and other mercenaries received various wounds. The attacker was killed in a shootout with a group of mercenaries of the special security on the main street opposite the garage.

Kurd Factions Blame Each Other for 'Massacre'

NC1606164594 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Ankara, June 14 (AFP)—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) blamed rival Kurd leaders for the "massacre" of mourners at a slain rival's funeral in northern Iraq, in a statement received by AFP here on Thursday.

The rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had said PUK gunmen shot dead 51 people and wounded 40 more at the funeral of 'Uthman Qadir Munawwar, a KDP leader, in the town of al-Sulaymaniyeh on Monday.

But the PUK charged Thursday that the KDP was to blame for the slaughter, saying it had been "determined to exploit the funeral to destabilise the situation in the town."

The PUK statement said two grenades were thrown in the direction of PUK fighters and mourners at Munawwar's funeral, provoking an exchange of gunfire between the rival factions which killed 14 people and wounded 46 more.

An initial toll from a UN source Monday had said seven people were killed and 47 wounded.

Munawwar was killed near the Iranian border during fighting between the KDP and the PUK, which have been locked in a violent power struggle since early last month.

The KDP said in a statement Tuesday that PUK fighters shot "without any warning," and that women and children were among the victims.

It said it was "shocked by this appalling massacre" in al-Sulaymaniyeh, a PUK stronghold.

The PUK called for "the immediate launch of an independent inquiry into this tragedy to bring those responsible to justice."

The shooting took place on the same day as the rival KDP and PUK leaders, Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani respectively, met in the Turkish border town of Silopi to discuss ways to end the fighting.

About 100 people have been killed in the PUK-KDP showdown in northern Iraq, which is controlled by Kurds with the backing of a US-lead coalition and in defiance of Baghdad, according to independent sources.

The Iraqi opposition has said the fighting claimed more than 600 lives.

Economic Cooperation Talks With Yugoslav Delegation

LD1606205394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2014 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (TANJUG)—Iraq and Yugoslavia today expressed their commitment—during the hardships currently faced by both countries—to finding mutually useful solutions for problems in their current cooperation and its development, when the conditions for it are ripe.

This is a brief summary of the talks held in Baghdad this afternoon between Milorad Unkovic, minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for economic relations with foreign countries and Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih. This meeting opened a several-day-long session of a joint Yugoslav-Iraqi committee for economic and technical development.

The aim of the session is to review the cooperation so far and establish the total outstanding claims of Yugoslav companies in Iraq.

In addition to the federal Yugoslav minister, the talks are being attended by FRY Deputy Foreign Minister Radoslav Bulajic, and Jovan Kostic, the charge d'affaires of the FRY Embassy in Baghdad, as well as a group of directors of large Yugoslav companies whose firms have carried out work in Iraq.

The Yugoslav delegation is expected to hold talks with senior Iraqi economic and state leaders over the next few days.

Minister Discusses Ties With PRC Official

JN1606150194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, today discussed with Wang Changyi, China's assistant foreign minister, and his delegation means to bolster the ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the industrial fields.

The minister urged Chinese industrial institutions to start executing industrial projects in Iraq on the basis of the ties of friendship between the two countries, as well as the positive attitudes displayed by the PRC toward Iraq and its just causes.

He stressed that several international industrial institutions, particularly European ones, have started contacts with Iraqi industrial institutions to determine frameworks for bilateral cooperation, out of their understanding of the importance of the economic position occupied by Iraq, its natural resources, and serious trend to achieve sound industrial and economic construction.

The PRC assistant foreign minister expressed his and his delegation's pleasure in visiting Iraq and holding talks with Iraqi officials. He stressed China's interest in improving existing ties with Iraq.

Paper on Saudi 'Military Buildup' on Yemeni Border

JN1706102094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has asserted that the new Saudi military buildup on the Yemeni border is no surprise for those who have been following the Saudi regime's policy and planned roles, which basically aim to destroy all constituents of the Arab nation's strength and unity.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH adds: This buildup is another link in an aggressive conspiratorial chain. Saudi Arabia has already implemented links in this chain by expelling more than half a million Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia. It was also behind most of the assassinations and disturbances that took place in Yemen following Yemeni unity. Moreover, the Fahd regime refrained from addressing the border problem with Yemen. Afterward, the most obvious link became clear with the arms and financial support that Saudi Arabia provided to the secessionists, in addition to the Saudi political and diplomatic moves in this regard.

AL-THAWRAH points out that the Saudi policy against Yemen is part of an imperialist-Zionist conspiracy designed to fragment the Arab homeland. This policy complements the 30-state aggression on Iraq, exploiting the regional and international situation created as a result of this aggression.

The paper wonders: Would the agent Fahd's regime dare to undermine Yemen's unity and harm the Yemeni people if the Arab situation were different, a situation that resulted from the wounds the Arabs caused to Iraq and from their unjust embargo imposed on it?

The paper also wonders: Would this regime be able to do what it pleases and rally the positions of the traitors, agents, hirelings, and renegades against Yemen's unity if there were sound logic governing the concept of Arab solidarity? It adds: The policy of agentry, treason, and aggression, which has blindfolded the Saudi rulers, must eventually lead them to a terrible end. This is because the power they are relying on is not their intrinsic power in the first place; they are only implementing an imperialist scheme. One who relies on a foreigner cannot be safe in the long run.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The political opportunity that has pushed the Fahd regime toward both recklessness and brandishing force against all that is a genuine Arab is actually a transient opportunity. The Saudi rulers should learn a lesson from Iraq's steadfastness and from Yemeni unity, knowing that the need for this unity was unanimously emphasized by the Yemeni people. These rulers should also learn from what is taking place inside Saudi Arabia itself where decay, scandals, and collapse are spreading.

Religious Awareness Committees Cable Support

JN1706063494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] The leader president has received cables from the Religious Awareness Committees [Lijan al-Taw'iyah al-Diniyah] in al-Ta'mim, al-Anbar, and Babil Governorates in which they evaluated his excellency's decision to cancel horse racing and gambling and to build the Grand State Mosque instead.

The committees affirmed that this blessed step reinforces the progress of the faith campaign [al-hamlah al-imaniyah] which is lived by our steadfast, struggler people under the flag of Allahu Akbar, which is carried by the symbol and pride of Iraq, struggler leader President Saddam Husayn.

The members of the Religious Awareness Committees prayed to Almight God to preserve struggler leader President Saddam Husayn as an asset for Iraq and the Arab nation.

Writer Urges Amputation for Theft Decree

JN1606153594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 1

[Article by Abu-Sirhan: "In The Name Of God, The Merciful, The Compassionate. As to the Thief, Male or Female, Cut Off His or Her Hands, a Punishment by Way of Example, From God, for Their Crime." (part of a Koranic verse)]

[Text] Revolution Command Council Decree No. 59 of 4 June 1994 is a sound one. Theft cannot be deemed an ordinary crime when people are suffering under the circumstances of the embargo, where people labor endlessly to make ends meet and ensure themselves a decent livelihood. Under such circumstances, when one loses some of his material possessions, his budget is monstrously undermined.

This decree is directly connected with the principle of imposing the rule of law. I previously wrote an article, hoping that the decree we had to revoke prior to the onset of the 30-state aggression due to Western pressure over the issue of human rights would be rehabilitated. This decree gave men the right to kill their sisters, wives, etc., if they commit adultery, or any other crimes of passion. The basic reasons for cutting off thieves' hands are also found in the injunction that calls for killing adulteresses.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "The woman and the man guilty of adultery or fornication, flog each of them with a hundred stripes: Let not compassion move you in their case, in a matter prescribed by God, if ye believe in God and the Last Day." [Part of a Koranic verse]

This decree concerning adultery reflected our age-old Iraqi family traditions, which make us as Iraqis stand out among our brethren in the remaining Arab states.

In my opinion, the important thing is to see the competent agencies stringently implement the decree pertaining to thieves. This is necessary if that decree is to achieve its purposes and sublime objectives. This is because the failure to do so will cause immense damage and harm.

In the past, a decree providing for the execution of brothel madams was issued. This decree was one of the greatest and most profound ones, although it is hard to use the superlative case in such situations.

Nonetheless, I would like to address the following question to the competent agencies: How many brothel madams have been executed so far?

We, as journalists and informed people, have not heard that any single brothel madam has been executed, although there are many of them around.

Article Discusses Growth of Wahhabism

JN1606122494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Jun 94 p 12

[Unsigned article in the "Above the Red Line" column: "Wahhabism—Call of the Devil"]

[Text] Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn has received a letter from the citizen T.S.D. [as published] explaining the threat posed by the appearance in the country of the Wahhabist movement, which receives direct support from the Saudi regime. In view of this important issue, we publish the contents of the letter:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Esteemed Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, may God's blessings and peace be upon you. Greetings of pride and appreciation.

You can readily imagine, dear sir, our predicament because of the problem which is facing our youth and even the elderly—a problem which is represented by the Wahhabist movement and its revival by the so-called Muhammad Nasir-al-Din al-Albani. We have known the real nature of the Wahhabist movement since we were children. This knowledge has been confirmed in our mind by articles and television reports and by the agent Saudi regime's position toward Iraq and the Iraqi people and leader. Indeed we were not deceived by this regime's attempts to befriend our revolution during the Iranian aggression against our struggling country. We are well aware of the reasons and naturally you are more capable of knowing them. Our apprehensions toward this dangerous movement cannot escape a brilliant person of your caliber. Following are the reasons for our apprehensions:

1. The Wahhabist-Albanian movement in its flagrant present form began with the 30-state war of aggression against Iraq.

2. The movement gives money to its members, most of them idle, and they are squandering the money left and right.

3. All the elements of the agent al-Da'wah [Islamic Call] Party and their sympathizers have become basic pillars of this movement, which is forming an unbelievable focus of attraction to them. Is it possible, dear sir, to see an individual with Persian origin and beliefs, renouncing the religious tenets which he has long held to be very sacred in order to become an extremist Wahhabi overnight?

4. Writings of the so-called Muhammad Nasir-al-Din al-Albani are widespread in Iraq. The revivalist of the Wahhabi movement is donning the clothes of a man of religion but he belongs in the category of the founders of the Kadianism [Ahmadiyah sect], Babism, Bahaism, and other destructive religious movements which endeavor to realize their aim by employing weird methods and attacking Islamic figures such as our prophet and lord Muhammad, God's blessings and peace upon him.

5. They are trying to instigate seditions, confusion and disturbances in mosques in defense of their aims and to promote their heresies, and are active in theological colleges in general.

6. Most religious scientists do not dare to confront them for fear of their reprisals which could end in killing. Some are bribed to remain silent under the guise of assistance. This helps their movement expand and influence increase.

7. They are mingling with naive youths in a suspicious manner and nobody is confronting them.

8. They are surprisingly identical in their apparel as well as in their movements at prayer and their beliefs. They are carbon copies of one another. How could they realize such harmony and how could they reach this unity in conduct, behavior, and belief? Is this merely a religious belief? We have been praying and worshipping for hundreds of years but we belong to different sects. Does not this show that their center of guidance is one? This proves that all the instructions are received from a guidance center of a political movement abroad. It is no use saying that this is a chance agreement, that all of them reached a correct course of worship. We have never experienced this in Iraqi mosques or in other mosques in any Arab country.

9. They have a common grudge against Iraq and are happy for the blockade and harm done against it. Your excellency is aware of the reasons. One such reason is that because of the blockade circumstances, a 100-dollar note can be changed into thousands of dinars. This is part of the assistance they are getting. We have heard of this assistance but did not see it although it is very logical and reasonable. They also hate the revolutionary regime in Iraq and that is why they smile and express happiness when they hear that the blockade has been extended or that the al-Rashid Hotel for instance has been bombed.

We do not want to take a long time explaining but these are only some of the legitimate questions that we would like to ask. We think that the party and security organs do not seem to be aware of this Wahhabist-Albanian activities. This also applies to the official and religious organs. Does this mean consent? If this is so then let the issue come into the open and let us all join this movement whose Albanian founder chose Jordan to be his headquarters and to facilitate his contacts with Iraq and to influence the Iraqis. If the opposite is true—and we are certain that this is so because we believe in God and in the principles of the Ba'thists and the intelligent Iraqi people—then let us put things in order and prevent this cancer from spreading before it is too late.

Sir, we have asked your help. Our only interest is our love for Iraq, the care for Islam, and allegiance to the Ba'th and Iraq. We are certain that the other offices of the state lack the daring, youthful, and revolutionary vision; that they rely on red tape, nepotism, and personal and tribal factors; and that at best the issue would be delegated to a committee and we do not know when the result would emerge. We are putting these questions before you and we are confident that your responsibility toward the youth and the Iraqis, in view of your high position in addition to the revolutionary characteristics that we know you possess, make us hopeful of getting decisive answers. We would like to remind your excellency that many sincere people frequent the mosques and we hope that others will not be punished for the sins committed by some.

May God grant you success in the service of the great Iraq and its people. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Observation: We have information on the centers and places where the Wahhabist are staying. If the security organs so require, we can supply the necessary information.

Netanyahu Reportedly Met With Hasan in May

TA1606180194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Discussion between anchor Hayim Yavin and party affairs correspondent Menashe Raz in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Several weeks ago, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu met with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan in London. What were the circumstances of the meeting? Who initiated it?

[Raz] In fact, the meeting was initiated by both sides. It took place following several meetings and discussions, which culminated in the idea of getting Likud Chairman Netanyahu and Prince Hasan together.

[Yavin] Where was the meeting held?

[Raz] It took place at a private residence in London in early May. Netanyahu left Israel and returned on the same day. The meeting lasted several hours. In the meeting, Netanyahu made it clear to Prince Hasan that the Likud supports the government's policy regarding a peace agreement with Jordan. The Likud has no problem with a peace arrangement between Israel and Jordan. After he returned to Israel, Netanyahu briefed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the meeting.

[Yavin] Has Netanyahu confirmed the report?

[Raz] No. He refused to discuss the issue and, in fact, has neither denied nor confirmed the report.

[Yavin] Nonetheless, by holding the meeting and making it public, Netanyahu is making a statement, is he not?

[Raz] Yes. I would say that Netanyahu is seeking to somewhat improve his image. On the local political map, he is considered a hawkish rightist. He hopes to convey the message: If and when I become Israeli prime minister, I will work more along the central lines of the Israeli political map. Netanyahu is also trying to deliver a message on the domestic level. He wants to appear as if he is representing the state. To date, he has been an outspoken critic of the government's peace policy. Quite a few of his associates have told him that he should seek some way to somehow support some component of the peace process. At the time, they discussed possible Likud support for the agreement on Gaza; however, as will be recalled, after the Oslo agreement was signed, Netanyahu attacked the entire agreement. Therefore, I assume that one of the main motivations for this meeting was an attempt to show his domestic audience that he is acting like a statesman.

[Yavin] You said that Netanyahu briefed the prime minister. Did he also brief the Likud members?

[Raz] The only ones in the Likud who know of it are the very few who were involved in the contacts prior to the meeting, as well as several to whom he reported about it.

Netanyahu Refuses To Comment

TA1706062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Zissowitz] We called you this morning to discuss the possible establishment of a coalition by the Likud and Hayim Ramon's faction in the Histadrut labor federation, but we obviously cannot ignore the news of your meeting with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan in London in May.

[Netanyahu] Why not? We definitely can. I have nothing to say about that.

[Zissowitz] Did you meet?

[Netanyahu] To repeat, I have no intention of getting into a discussion of this issue. I thought you called me to ask me about other things.

[Zissowitz] I began by saying that we wanted to discuss other matters with you, but that we could not ignore this piece of news which was first reported last night. I believe you have not categorically denied it.

[Netanyahu] I can only tell you one thing: I think the attempt made by certain elements in the last two years to portray the Likud as the enemy of peace—as opposed to the supporters of peace—has been futile. After all, it was the Likud that brought about the two big steps: the Camp David accords with Egypt and the Madrid conference on direct peace talks with all our neighbors. The Likud adheres to its concept that the attainment of a genuine peace must be based on security and our ability to protect this peace with arrangements that will prevent its disintegration and its deterioration into a new war. The Likud proved this ability and continues to adhere to this concept, whether it is in the government or in the opposition, and will continue to do so when I am once again in the government.

[Zissowitz] Not everybody in the Likud sees eye to eye with you on this issue. Last time when you voiced your support for contacts with Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with King Husayn, former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir lashed out at you and asked you on what basis you were making such declarations.

[Netanyahu] I will not comment on such speculations and utterances. I can only tell you that Yitzhaq Shamir, just like many other members of the Likud—its overwhelming majority, if not all of it—firmly and clearly support the attainment of a peace agreement with Jordan. I have always said this would be one of our objectives. That is why we went to the Madrid conference and why the Likud government conducted negotiations with Jordan. This was and remains our objective.

[Zissowitz] Do you still adhere to your declaration about Jordan—East Palestine [previous three words in English]?

[Netanyahu] I have always said and continue to say today that the solution of the question of Eretz Yisra'el and the status of the Palestinian Arabs between us and the Arabs will be found through two, not three, countries. Such a solution will be attained by the Jewish state in western Eretz Yisra'el—the State of Israel—and the Arab country with a Palestinian majority located on the eastern part of Mandatory Palestine—the state of Jordan. We could reach a stable arrangement in negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinian Arabs; not the arrangement which is now disintegrating before our very eyes in Gaza and Jericho, but a different one. Negotiations with these two elements—the state of Jordan and the Palestinian Arabs—would enable us to arrive at an autonomy arrangement rather than at a state.

[Zissowitz] I suppose you were asked by your interlocutors—or your interlocutor, if the reported meeting indeed took place—whether as part of the understandings with Jordan you would be prepared to arrive at a territorial compromise with it, not with the Palestinian Arabs.

[Netanyahu] I suggest you do not make any suppositions. To repeat, I will not comment on those reports. I suggest that we stick to what I have just said.

[Zissowitz] But would you be prepared in principle?

[Netanyahu] I reiterate: It is our position that the territory west of the Jordan River should remain under Israel's sovereignty and our security domination. However, contrary to the situation that has existed since the Six-Day War, we aspire to revert from a military regime to a civilian government, to autonomy for the Arabs and security for the Jews. This concept has not changed. [passage omitted]

Beilin: Country Mediating Foreign Disputes

TA1606183994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Over the past six months, Israel has been involved in solving local crises in foreign countries. Israelis are currently in a CIS country on a mediation mission. Several months ago, Israelis were engaged in a similar mission in another country. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports on this new Israeli involvement:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] In Jerusalem today, the widow of late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst was given the peace award. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, the man who conceived the Oslo track, today discussed a new reputation Israel has been gaining: selling peace.

[Beilin] Two countries approached us after the Oslo agreement and asked if we at the Foreign Ministry would be willing to help them handle problems within their boundaries involving disputes between the government and a violent opposition element. In both cases, we were willing to offer our good services. We were even glad to do it.

[Rosen] Beilin would not name the countries in question. This activity is taking place under a thick veil of secrecy, and even the Prime Minister's Office is not familiar with all the details. We have learned that one of the countries is in Latin America. The other is in Europe, where these very days Israelis are shuttling back and forth in an attempt to mediate between two rival camps engaged in a bloody and violent struggle. So, after having been engaged in selling arms, are we now selling peace?

[Beilin] First, I am not certain that the gains are comparable. These services are given voluntarily. I certainly hope that in the future, Israel will be able to really help other places in the world that are involved in conflicts.

[Rosen] The deputy foreign minister also said today that he would support the participation of Israeli soldiers in UN peacekeeping forces.

[Beilin] I would not rule out the possibility that one day—certainly after peace prevails here—while we would still want to have a strong army of a considerable size, we could have units of volunteers who would be willing to serve in peacekeeping forces. [end recording]

PLO Sources Reveal Contents of Rabin Letter to 'Arafat

TA1606183294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has notified PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the dialogue between them will go on in order to continue the implementation of the agreements between Israel and the PLO. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned from sources in the PLO that this remark was made in a personal letter Rabin sent to 'Arafat yesterday morning. The letter was taken to Tunis by Jamil al-Tarifi.

The letter is warmly worded and in it, Rabin expresses his commitment to the peace process and to cooperation with 'Arafat. In the letter, Mr. Rabin also expresses a commitment to help the autonomy settle in, but it does not contain any financial commitment.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Andorra

TA1606113494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A6

["Exclusive" report by Nitzan Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Madrid—Israel has decided to establish full diplomatic relations with Andorra, a tiny country wedged between Spain and France in the Pyrenees.

The Foreign Ministry decided to appoint Dr. Ya'aqov Kohen, Israel's ambassador in Madrid, as a nonresident

ambassador in Andorra. He will present his credentials to the Andorran leaders at the end of this month. [passage omitted]

Reinforcement of IDF Troops in Jordan Valley

TA1606113394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Two days ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin instructed Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, to reinforce the presence of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Jordan Valley, particularly in the vicinity of Jericho, in order to step up the security of the settlements in the area. [passage omitted]

A government source said that at Rabin's instructions the soldiers will help guard the settlements and prevent infiltrations. "If it is necessary, the soldiers will also give chase to infiltrators," the source added. [passage omitted]

There were several incidents in the territories yesterday. Two Palestinians were hit by rubber bullets in clashes with IDF troops in Hebron and Ramallah. Palestinian sources reported that shots were directed at an IDF base in the Ramallah area and that a firebomb was thrown at a police outpost in the city. The policemen opened fire at the perpetrator, but he escaped. Searches were launched in the area. Another firebomb was thrown in Nabulus, but no casualties or damages were caused in this incident either.

Palestinian sources in Dayr al-Balah reported several incidents of stone-throwing at Border Police and settlers' cars. Stone- throwing incidents also occurred in the Qatif Bloc and the vicinity of Kfar Darom.

A military source noted yesterday that wanted men persist in their efforts to hide in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho. The IDF has reinforced its patrols along the main roads in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

An evaluation report about the first month of activity of the joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols was issued yesterday. The report notes that no extraordinary events were registered during this period, except for a few shooting incidents. [passage omitted]

Neriya on Resignation as Political Adviser

TA1706082594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] "Intelligence evaluation elements neutralized me in order to distance me from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. One of the methods they used was leaking a series of stories to the media while creating the impression in the prime minister's office that I was the source of those leaks."

These remarks were made last night by Dr. Jacques Neriya, prime minister's political adviser, who filed his resignation letter at the beginning of this week. Neriya further claimed that he knows who the senior source is behind the leak that he told the prime minister, in the presence of others, that Yasir 'Arafat is crazy.

Neriya further said that the source's identity, protected by the censorship, said the following: "...unlike Neriya, who thinks that 'Arafat is crazy. Neriya should have read 'Arafat's psychological profile, written over a year ago, and should have realized that he is not crazy."

Neriya added: "The prime minister was fair enough not make any charges against me, but after I have been charged with so many affairs, I felt that he was keeping his distance, that he is reserved. They said that I am the current source of leaks from the prime minister's office."

Neriya said yesterday that he had never made the remarks attributed to him regarding the PLO head. On the contrary, he was in charge of drafting the psychological opinion prepared in the past about the PLO head. Dr. Neriya added that he decided to resign after 20 months of work when he realized that his skills as political adviser are not being properly used by the prime minister's bureau.

The fact that his status as political adviser was ignored has caused damage to the public image of the government and the prime minister over the past several weeks. Neriya claimed that the storm regarding Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter to Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst could have been prevented had he been consulted on this.

Neriya revealed that Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who has been acting as a liaison between the government and the Knesset since Hayim Ramon resigned, has systematically avoided using his services, for reasons unknown to Neriya.

"All the information regarding Peres' letter to Holst was presented to me. Had Shahal shown any interest and asked me about the letters to 'Arafat, I would have told him that 'Arafat had received a letter regarding the location of the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. He could have then discussed the issue with the prime minister."

[Barzilay] Why did you not bring it to Shahal's attention?

[Neriya] Since Shahal was appointed liaison between the Knesset and the prime minister, he sent his aide to me once. Should I be running after Shahal? This is not my job. Ramon used to call me and come to my office whenever he needed information. [end Neriya]

Neriya claimed that the restrictions imposed on him, in his status as political adviser, grew gradually. "In the negotiations with the PLO, I was supposed to be an assistant to Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, as the representative of the prime minister. In fact, I was left out of the circle of consultations. I stayed on as a trouble shooter."

The next stage of his reclassification was when classified material stopped arriving at his desk, he said. "I felt like I was an outsider at the prime minister's bureau. They stopped passing information to me. How could I help forming political opinions?"

[Barzilay] Why did they neutralize you?

[Neriya] National evaluation elements were angry over the fact that the prime minister has a political, civilian arm that could draft political evaluations independently of them. [end Neriya]

In the coming days, Neriya will meet Hayim Ramon to work out the definition of his position as the person in charge of the Histadrut labor federation's international relations. Neriya claimed that he has never spoken to Ramon about his political plans or about getting him into the Knesset.

[Barzilay] Do you claim you were pushed aside in the bureau?

[Neriya] This is probably a matter of style.

[Barzilay] Were you the scapegoat of the system?

[Neriya] I was the lonely link. I have no organization. My only source of support was Director General Shim'on Sheves, and the prime minister's confidence in me.

[Barzilay] Do you believe the security branches are isolating the prime minister?

[Neriya] The thing is that they are almost the only element that controls information.

[Barzilay] Perhaps the prime minister is held captive by the system?

[Neriya] You are using the wrong word. The prime minister works vis-a-vis establishments—the chief of staff, his deputy, the Mosad, the Shin Bet. I was an irregularity in that context.

[Barzilay] Would they not allow a civilian to work with the prime minister?

[Neriya] Yes, and in a place like this, if you have no information, you have no power. Preventing me from receiving information was aimed at neutralizing my influence on the prime minister.

[Barzilay] Did they harm the prime minister's ability to receive evaluations from you?

[Neriya] They first and foremost wanted to harm my functioning and allow the Army to have an exclusive status. How long can you fight?

[Barzilay] How do you feel about the prime minister?

[Neriya] I love him, I appreciate him, I admire him. I think he is a role model of integrity, openness, and dedication. I learned a lot from him. I was faithful to him. I believed in his path. I have no doubts about the things he did.

The problem is that I constantly had to fight for my square foot under the sun, to remind everyone that I exist, that I am here. I found I was an outsider. How long can you be an outsider? [end Neriya]

Jordan Rules Out Participation in Yemen Committee

PM1606154494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Jordan Will Not Participate in Military Committee; It Is Willing To Mediate in Yemen at an Arab Request"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Jordanian official yesterday ruled out Jordan's willingness to participate in a military committee to settle the dispute in Yemen, as proposed by Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, during his talks with Jordanian officials yesterday.

The Jordanian official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Jordan participated with the Sultanate of Oman in a military mission which worked—after the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document and until the fighting broke out—to spare blood and disengage the military sectors which were the source of tension. He added, "regrettably, recent developments and the large-scale explosion of the situation have in practice ended the military committee's role and led to the withdrawal of Jordanian and Omani officers."

The Jordanian official pointed out that Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has on several occasions said that Jordan will not resume mediation efforts except with the unanimous approval of all the parties to the dispute, and it will not respond to the request of just one party.

He said that Jordan intervened to resolve the Yemeni crisis and tried to defuse the situation early at an official request from the legislative and executive authorities. But we now prefer to wait until Lakhdar Brahimi completes his noble mission, as he is expected to submit his report to the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council. The fate of regional and international mediations will be determined in the light of that.

The Jordanian official did not rule out Jordan's participation in any mediation efforts, provided they are at an official request from the parties to the dispute or an Arab request. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Reshuffle Indicates 'No Change' on Policy

PM1706093894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "No Change in Main Portfolios; Jordan: Al-Majali's Cabinet Includes 10 Deputies"]

[Excerpt] Amman—The cabinet of Prime Mininster 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali was reshuffled yesterday. Its political base was enlarged with the inclusion of 10 deputies from the main parliamentary blocs with the exception of the Islamic Action Front bloc. The main cabinet portfolios were not affected.

Official information shows that al-Majali kept the defense and foreign portfolios, and the ministers of finance, information, and industry kept their posts, which confirms continuation of the economic team with the exception of planning Minister Ziyad Fariz who has been replaced.

It was clear that there would be no change in the government's policy on the peace process, as the prime minister kept the foreign portfolio and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan retained his. The appointment of Dhuqan al-Hindawi as deputy prime minister replacing Deputy Prime Ministers Ma'n Abu-Nuwar and Sa'id al-Tall indicates that al-Majali wants to entrust the internal affairs to al-Hindawi so that he could devote himself to the peace process which has witnessed some activity on the Jordanian-Israeli track in the past few days.

The cabinet reshuffle came one day after the announcement in Washington that some progress had been made in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on issues pertaining to the occupied Jordanian territory, the demarcation of international borders, water quotas, and economic cooperation, in addition to the announcement of a joint decision to move the negotiations on these topics to "the region" in July.

Observers see the cabinet reshuffle as a bid to rescue al-Majali's government which was heavily burdened with the increasing parliamentary opposition and criticism of its domestic and foreign policies.

Political circles are unanimous that the reshuffle will facilitate the work of the government which will be tackling the results of moving the negotiations to the region and the reactions and effects that will have on the Jordanian and Palestinian public opinions.

According to independent political sources, the reshuffle "reassures the Jordanian and Palestinian people" that there will be no change in the government's policy of commitment to proceeding with the peace negotiations in a way that would parallel the progress made on the Palestinian track. It should be noted that the appointment of Talal 'Urayqat, Crown Prince Hasan's private secretary, as energy minister has been seen as an example of that trend. 'Urayqat comes from the village of Abu-Days in the suburbs of Jerusalem, the same place which Palestinian official Sa'ib 'Urayqat and negotiator Ahmad Quray' (Abu-al-'Ala') hail from. [passage omitted]

Hasan Affirms Support for 'Comprehensive Peace'

JN1606184194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has stressed that we are facing a new challenge in the peace process. In a speech he delivered at the Royal War College, his highness added that peace in the Middle East figures high on the international agenda. He said Jordan

has always been a peace advocate, and that Jordan's peace theory is not just theoretical propaganda, but an essential practical reality.

In his the lecture, his highness reviewed the challenges facing the Arab nation under changing world circumstances. His highness said the world's interests have become intertwined. Therefore, small states have lost a great degree of their freedom, and their decisions are affected by the international axis more than by regional and domestic axes. He indicated that the continued Arab-Israeli conflict threatens cruel international disputes.

[Begin Hasan recording] We want a peace that preserves our historical and religious rights in the holy land and holy Jerusalem. Peace should not be a bargain of material profits at the expense of moral and spiritual sublimeness. Any peace that does not secure our rights cannot be a durable peace. For peace not to be fragile, we want peace for all Arab parties. Peace is indivisible. A just peace is a comprehensive peace on all fronts. We are not raising this as a slogan, but as a message that this is the only possible peace whose hopes and pains we can cope with. For us in Jordan, the requirements of peace are unchangeable. They will require us to face the burdens of peace with internal cohesion, comprehensive security, building a production base, and resolving the shortage in basic supplies, such as water, energy, and food. [end recording]

Present to listen to the lecture were Acting Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, advisers to his majesty the king, the information minister, his highness the prince's special adviser, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the chief of staff of the Royal Ground Forces, aides to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and senior Armed Forces officers.

Israeli Air Force Raids 'Terrorist' Target

TA1606172294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] This afternoon, Israeli Air Force planes raided a terrorist target in the vicinity of Jabal Safi in southern Lebanon. The target was an operational site for Hizballah. The pilots reported accurate hits.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that although the pilots reported fierce antiaircraft fire from locations west of the raided target, all planes returned safely to base.

Resistance Attacks Israeli-SLA Post

NC1706100094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Resistance fighters attacked the al-Qantarah position, which is manned jointly by Israeli occupation troops and their agent militiamen [South Lebanese Army, SLA] at 1030 today. There were fierce exchanges with various automatic weapons and rockets.

Occupation forces bombarded Qabrikha, Tulin, and Wadi Hujayr. The shelling caused fires in Wadi al-Hujayr, which continue to blaze at this hour.

The outskirts of Yatar were subjected to artillery fire from the enemy positions in [placename indistinct] this morning. The enemy forces also raked al-Hasbani and Zummarayya areas with machine-gun fire and rockets.

Fighting Between Hizballah, Israeli Forces

NC1706095394 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, June 17 (AFP)—Clashes between Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas and allied Israeli militiamen killed a civilian woman and wounded four people in south Lebanon on Friday, police said.

The fighting broke out after Hizballah attacked an SLA outpost on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon with machine guns and B-7 rocket-propelled grenades, police in the southern port of Tyre said.

A group of guerrillas advanced close to the South Lebanese Army (SLA) outpost at al-Qantarah at mid-morning firing and as they pulled back the position came under a hail of mortar fire.

The SLA retaliated with a heavy artillery barrage on villages just north of the security zone, sending several shells crashing into civilian homes and killing a 50-year-old woman and wounding four other people, police added.

They fired more than 20 shells on the villages of Qabrikha, Tulin and Wadi al-Saluqi which face the al-Qantarah outpost and fires were reported in the region.

Two Israeli Cobra helicopters gunships also went into action, strafing a ravine used by the guerrillas to attack the security zone, police said.

On Thursday Israeli warplanes blasted a Hizballah base in the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills in south Lebanon. Two planes fired a missile at Mlita without causing any casualties.

Up to 45 guerrillas were killed on June 2 in an Israeli helicopter raid on a Hizballah training camp in the Syrian-controlled eastern Ba'labakk region.

Since then Israel has flown daily sorties over Lebanon searching to wipe out Hizballah resistance fighters.

Cabinet Briefed on U.S., Syrian Stands

NC1606142694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, 16 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz revealed that the United States has conveyed to Lebanon the U.S. "clarifications" about what is happening on the Jordanian-Israeli track in which it stressed that Washington does not regard this action as a deviation from Madrid's Middle East peace conference mechanism but sees it as an aspect of it. He said that these clarifications emphasized that no agreement has been signed between the Jordanian and Israeli sides.

In a report he submitted to the Lebanese cabinet last night, Buwayz said that U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon Mark Hambley brought him these clarifications yesterday to have them conveyed to the Lebanese Government.

The Lebanese foreign minister expressed his belief that the Jordanians' objective from this action is to lift the U.S. siege on the Gulf of al-'Aqabah and to obtain an economic and financial share in the economic agreement between the PLO and Israel which is required by the Gaza-Jericho agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi briefed the cabinet last night on the outcome of the Lebanese-Syrian summit talks that he held with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus the day before yesterday.

Informed sources said that al-Hirawi unveiled a Syrian-Lebanese agreement to draw up a joint action plan to face the U.S. pressure that the two countries are expecting to be exerted on them in the next few weeks following the recent developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track.

The sources added that al-Hirawi conveyed to al-Asad Lebanon's fears following reports that Syria and Israel might reach an agreement, leaving Lebanon to face Israel's political, security, and military pressures alone. They said that the Syrian president stressed to al-Hirawi

that his country would not agree to peace and to withdrawal from the Golan before the fate of Lebanon's south and western al-Biqa' are decided.

Al-Hirawi also told the cabinet that al-Asad stressed to him Syria's readiness to approve the mechanism for the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan within a period not to exceed six months after security and peace are achieved.

Attack on Sydney Consulate Linked to Sham'un Case

NC1606173694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] According to new information on the attack on the Lebanese Consulate in Australia, unidentified persons threw gasoline and set fires around the consulate and at the entrance of the building. Australian firemen managed to extinguish the fire before it reached the inside of the building. Only the garage and the consul's car were damaged.

Diplomatic sources in Sidney said the consul had refused to sign forged documents which two fugitive suspects in the al-Zuq Church bombing and assassination of engineer Dany Sham'un, Tony 'Ubayd and Jean Shahin tried to obtain.

The investigation links the fire to the indictment in connection with the two cases.

Report of Indictment of Ja'ja' in Murder Case

NC1606174894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] The judge investigating the assassination of engineer Dany Sham'un and his family members, Munir Hunayn, has issued an indictment in the crime that took place in the home of the deceased in B'abda on 21 October 1990.

After reviewing the case, he indicted defendants Samir Farid Ja'ja' [leader of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party]; (?Kamil) Hanna Karam; Ghassan Antoine Tuma; Antonios Ilyas Ilyas, alias Antonios Ilyas 'Ubayd; (?Tony) 'Ubayd; Jean Yusuf Shahin, alias Asad; (?'Atif Bulus) [third name indistinct]; George As'ad [third name indistinct]; Elie Jirjis 'Aqiqi; Jean Ghattas [third name indistinct]; Naja Anis [third name indistinct]; Ilyas George 'Awwad, alias Julyanu; Farid Salim Sa'adah; and Rafiq Ghalib Sa'adah under Article 579 A of the penalty code and Article 6 of the 11 January 1958 Law. [passage indistinct]

The indictment noted the political aspect of the crime. It pointed out that Samir Ja'ja' considered the late Dany Sham'un a political opponent of his in the Christian arena and decided to finish him off so that he alone would remain in the arena. [passage indistinct]

The Appeals Public Prosecutor, Judge Munif 'Uwaydat, stated that the file of investigations into the assassination of engineer Dany Sham'un and his family is now available to everyone and it, together with the file of al-Zuq Church explosion, will be referred to the Judicial Council. [passage indistinct]

Al-Hariri's Illness Causes Cancellation of Meetings

NC1706100194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri canceled his appointments yesterday afternoon because he was indisposed. He was feeling pain, which was caused by a past surgical operation in which his kidney was removed.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi telephoned al-Hariri to inquire about his health.

Al-Asad's Negotiating Prowess Described

NC1606143294 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
7 Jun 94 pp 1, 11

[Article by 'Imad Fawzi Shu'aybi: "An Open Letter to Christopher: Seizing the Opportunity Before It Is Too Late and Referring to al-Asad's Political Encyclopedia"]

[Text] It seems to me that the U.S. policy has not fallen into such a great contradiction between its private interests and personal dispositions on the one hand and its decisions, measures, and political approach on the other, as it has with Syria. This is clearly and blatantly apparent in the nature of the U.S. approach to the Syrian track and the measures America is taking regarding Syria.

We know that it was President Clinton's serious reading of the State Department's reports that prompted him to hold the Geneva summit and led him to say objectively that he had heard a lot about President al-Asad. However, he was surprised to find that reality was far richer than what was said or written, that President al-Asad was surely a leader of peace, and that he learned a lot from him. This seems to indicate that it was that stand which subjected the United States of America, represented by its president, to a major campaign from within. Prior to the Geneva summit we warned that America and Syria would come under enormous pressure. We showed the conflicts raging among the U.S. establishments, primarily the Defense Department and the decision-making organs, to break free of the cold war mentality that predominates in the Pentagon and to counter the influence of the Zionist lobby, which uses rumors to exert pressure.

Although Syria has succeeded in surviving this game and understanding its dimensions, it seems that the U.S. Administration was only able to curb the pressures on it by taking two steps backward and turning Warren Christopher's visit to the region into a mere postman's task.

Serious studies by U.S. political advisers at the highest levels, like that conducted by Anthony Lake, the U.S. President's adviser for national security, underline Syria's importance. Lake emphasized the importance of reaching a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly between Syria and Israel, in order to consolidate the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and strengthen the moderates in the Middle East. He said that Syria plays a crucial role in the regional peace process and that its past alliance with Iran and its support for (rejectionists) have given the powers of (extremism) a vital foundation in the Middle East. [parentheses as published] Washington, therefore, insists that peace should be real, safe, and comprehensive.

Without going into an argument about what Lake terms "extremism," we can say that the U.S. Administration has realized Syria's importance. However, due to electoral considerations, it has little influence in the face of Israeli pressures. Hence, we address our words to U.S. Secretary Christopher and to whom it may concern in the U.S. Administration. You are favoring the direct over the indirect [not further specified]. The U.S. secretary must refer to the ABC's of politics to understand how to deal simultaneously with Israel and Syria. If the sources of the State Department and think tanks are incapable of giving the U.S. secretary true advice in politics, we will provide these lessons:

1. The American and Israeli electoral game is approaching. The keys to this game are in Damascus. Unless they hurry up and make some progress with the peace process, President Clinton in particular will be in trouble. Moreover, the [Israeli] Labor Party will not find the necessary assets to run in the coming elections. Syria alone can frustrate all that has been achieved so far in the peace process. In other words, each side has only six months to bolster its position if Syria's lawful demands in the peace process are met.

2. To understand the Syrian policy fully, it should be realized that it does not play around, that it is capable of making its own choices, and that it can considerably upset the balance of the negotiating powers with its rational silence and relentless action. Nothing proves that better than the fact that the Russian giant has found no other gateway but Syria to enter the region, force itself on the world once again, and reshape its new image at the NATO negotiations.

When this giant writes off 90 percent of the debts Syria owes to the former Soviet Union and conducts several trips to Syria—three visits in one and a half months—it is enough for everyone to realize that Syria's weight is far greater than they imagined.

Israel's unserious approach to its proposals, which makes the U.S. secretary of state no better than a postman, must end quickly; otherwise the wasted time will not be in the interest of the United States and Israel.

3. The U.S. secretary must carefully read his department's files and specialized books about President al-Asad, because on this depends the U.S. policy's ability to find sound measures to facilitate the negotiating process so that no one, including the United States itself, will miss the opportunity.

Hence, we say that Syria is not negotiating from a weak position; it is known that President al-Asad does not negotiate from weak positions. When he negotiates from a strong position, he does not back down and he has the nerve and the political strength to play out the negotiations down to the last quarter hour. His briefing papers are not shown to anyone and he is able to create unexpected situations and stands. When he is in the right, he does not bargain; this is not a slogan for media hype. It is a fact, the bitterness of which has been tasted by many, such as the Israelis in several places, the Americans in Lebanon, [former Lebanese army general] 'Awn in his political vainglory—the list is endless.

Therefore, wasting time in what some imagine is a political bazaar might undermine the entire peace process, because rights are not subject to political haggling. Had al-Asad been the type who engages in political haggling over rights, he would have taken back the whole Golan over 20 years ago. But he negotiates only what should be negotiated; this means that President al-Asad does not negotiate over themes and substantive issues, only over procedures. It also means that the frantic political bazaar won't find attentive ears in Damascus except on procedural details.

Hafiz al-Asad sells but doesn't buy, listens but doesn't bargain. He doesn't buy the words of those who negotiate with him, because what al-Asad has means he does not need what the others might give. He fully realizes that time is on his side and that Rabin's latest proposals are indicative of this because it was Rabin who flinched first in this game of chicken. He initiated the campaign, so he should stay until the end. Al-Asad also realizes that stalling might—or rather will—turn the tables on the others.

Al-Asad is willing to negotiate endlessly without relinquishing his rights; and he knows pretty well that nothing will happen in the region without his approval.

Peace is not merely a matter of trivial accords like those some people have accepted. Peace in the region passes only through Syria. All regional cooperation is geographically dependent on Syria and every accord on water can only pass through Syria. As for an agreement on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, its key lies in Damascus.

No matter how events shape up, everyone has to refer to Syria and to President al-Asad himself. Hence, any delay or maneuvering will only benefit Syria. Perhaps it would be useful for Mr. Christopher to refer to President al-Asad's biography to realize who he is negotiating with.

He alone stands out among leaders of the Arab region and the Third Word as one who constitutes a departure [mufaraqah] from U.S. policy. He is rejected because he is an opposer, he is acceptable because he is a skilled politician, he is unacceptable because he does not agree with others' policies, and he is acceptable because he is a man of politics not adventures. He stands out alone among other leaders as being both an adversary and an arbiter and also someone for whom they are compelled to announce their respect.

Thus, in a clever and shrewd move, President al-Asad was able to establish a political reference for his archenemies and his fiercest foes. He is the only one who plays the game of "political options," does not put all his eggs in one basket, and does not give in to whatever the political circumstances impose on him. He believes in creating options and forcing static conditions to move by singing the same tune, but in a tempo he himself dictates.

Turning your back on existing realities means presenting your back to others as a target, while accepting existing realities means submitting to whatever happens so that you end up as fertilizer for the history of others. Hafiz al-Asad was able to recognize the existing realities, but he did not surrender to them. He continued his efforts to make energize the static conditions, and he has tried to use these fluid conditions to promote his policies. Through their movement he was able to seize suitable opportunities to rearrange matters and to change these conditions.

No man has witnessed such great changes in his time as President al-Asad has. He has been a man of war and a man of peace; a man of the cold war and a man of the new world order. The man soon adapted to the changing circumstances, planned his policy carefully, and made himself felt on the world stage at a time when everyone else was shaking their heads and accepting whatever came their way.

He contends with bad circumstances, but is not overbearing. He influences them, but is not influenced by them. Everyone has recognized his shrewdness. Kissinger wished he could become his foreign minister. On the eve of the departure of the American forces from Lebanon in the mid-80's, a senior correspondent said that the one who resides in the White House, governs the biggest power in the world, but he cannot deter the resident of al- Muhajirin, who governs a country with a small population and few resources; he does not deserve his position, for al-Asad's position is in the White House. James Baker emerged from a diplomatic shuttle before the Madrid Conference amazed at the Steel-nerved man he had met. Last but not least, Clinton's remarks about al-Asad's capabilities, the need for him to assume a basic leading role in the Middle East peace process, and his recognition that Syria is the key to a solution was not flattery. His remarks were in the nature of things, in view of al-Asad's political importance. As the saying goes, what is correct will ultimately make itself known.

President al-Asad is known to be a master in discriminating between strategy and tactics. He is skillful in the only thing that determines who is a professional and who is an amateur politician—the art of choosing the appropriate moment. He knows how to ride the waves, and by the time the waves start to recede he has already left the beach for good. He is a man of nerves of the first degree. He takes the one with whom he is negotiating to the bottom of the pit, and at the appropriate moment he emerges with a secure position while the nerves of everyone else have broken down. Therefore, everyone must realize that they are negotiating with the eleventh-hour man, who does not hasten anything nor beg for anything, but lets time takes its course. He is persistent and is never tired of details. He discusses in depth every minor or major point. This man is now dealing with Rabin over the history of the Labor Party and Labor Party's chances remaining in control of the government. Realizing that everyone awaits his decision, he is able to take from them what he did not take from others and what they could not take from him. Therefore, Rabin will get tired, but al-Asad will not.

What everyone who has an interest in peace must realize is that President al-Asad will not be trapped by their schemes, for he knows how to make hard choices and how to go to the brink of danger then withdraw quietly, leaving everybody in wonder. Accordingly, he has mastered the art of attack and retreat, and combines political and military actions. When he senses the dangers of direct military action he is the first, and perhaps the last, to resort to indirect military action—or what is known as acting by remote control—which enables him to exercise military command in a unique and effective way. He does not resort to outmoded methods of military action, for he supports institutions and organizations that have national legitimacy and rights recognized under international law. Thus, he wagers on peace, but he does not rule out the chances of war. In the welter of political negotiations, his military arsenal abounds with extra resources that make war an extension of politics and deterrence effective and a first-class negotiating card. He is a cautious negotiator who arms himself quietly without indulging in small-time showing off.

He will exhaust many people, who stand no chance of obtaining from him anything that he has not already made up his mind to give. His negotiating skill features an enormous capability for endurance and an ideological encyclopedia about rights throughout history. It is also known that al-Asad links his personal dignity to the national dignity. As precious as personal and national dignity are in the East, the legacy of the relationship with the land is equally rich. For Easterners in general and Arabs in particular, land is honor. For al-Asad, negotiations means "either all one's rights or nothing." Either full rights or let the conflict continue for hundreds of years, for history does not belong to one individual. Therefore, by demanding all his rights he is defending history. He is a man whose buttress, like the Great Wall of China, cannot be penetrated. But if some people want to advance negotiations with him, they have to come up with serious initiatives from the start.

At any rate, it is no secret that he is agreeable to obtaining full rights in stages, but only in installments that suit him and that may not necessarily suit others. Accordingly, President al- Asad accepts a timetable for withdrawal from the Golan, but he does not accept a phased and unspecified withdrawal. Thus, we can reiterate here that what is acceptable regarding the Golan is "all or nothing." Therefore, if the Israelis like to play for time, let them try it, and we promise them a sure loss against President Hafiz al-Asad. Likewise, if some Americans try to manipulate the two sides of the U.S. Administration—meaning the State Department led by Warren Christopher and President Clinton personally—they will lose and put the future of U.S. relations in the region in great jeopardy, for all the keys are in the hands of Damascus. It is high time the Americans realized where their interests lie and learned not to sacrifice them at the altars of old and inherited policies that time has passed by.

Until the eleventh hour comes, we tell everybody: Seize the opportunity before you start to pay for not grasping it. Political reason dictates that you say a positive word in a world that is changing. Syria is the gateway to the Middle East. Syria has paid dearly for a policy that has lasted for 50 years, during which it has become the region's axis. Some people have attempted to marginalize Syria's policy but they lost, as did the region and the world. Thus, admitting Syria's pivotal and premier weight in the entire Middle East is the only key to lasting stability in the region. We believe that it is high time that the U.S. Administration realizes that Israel's weight cannot be equated with Syria's regional weight.

Official Hits U.S., Others for Arming Israel

PM1606134094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Criticizes Washington for Supplying Israel With Arms"]

[Text] Damascus, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Arab sources in Cairo have said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to send Ambassador Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the bilateral negotiations, to the Middle East before the end of the month to make shuttle trips between Damascus and Tel Aviv before Christopher's new tour, which is expected to begin in July.

The sources said that Dennis Ross will carry with him new Israeli proposals regarding the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track and an amendment to the Israeli plan on withdrawal from "Majdal Shams First" so as to include in the first phase a withdrawal from five villages on the Golan Heights, then diplomatic relations would be established between Syria and Tel Aviv.

The sources said that Syria has told the U.S. Administration that the guarantees offered to it so far under the Israeli plan are insufficient and conflict with the basic principles of the bilateral negotiations and the need for Israel's commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the implementation of the land for peace principle, and that security guarantees concern not only Israel, but all the parties concerned.

The sources pointed out that the U.S. administration is seeking to get Syria to agree to resume bilateral negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, especially after Jordan's agreement to resume negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

In the context of a new tour of the region for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a new bid to revive peace opportunities between Syria and Israel, Syria has expressed its indignation at the Israeli position and the Rabin government's continued refusal to withdraw, which, in the Syrian officials' view, freezes the peace process and keeps it at a standstill.

A Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that what Rabin said, namely that there has been nothing new with regard to the talks with Syria and the existence of huge gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions on the peace process, is attributable to the fact that the Rabin government continues to deal with the basis of the peace process from the angle of retaining the Golan and not withdrawing fully from the occupied Arab territories, thus exposing itself as a party that has no desire for a just and comprehensive peace. Meanwhile the Syrian position is fully responsive to the requirements of peace and to all the political efforts being made to achieve it on the basis of just and comprehensive foundations. Syria proceeds from its eagerness to achieve a secure and lasting peace that cannot be shaken by storms.

The Syrian official said that, if Israel is really and seriously seeking peace, all it has to do is to withdraw fully from the Arab territories, implement the resolutions of international legitimacy in order to achieve peace in the region, and stop—it and its leader—swimming against the tide.

Meanwhile a Syrian military official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israeli armament is a threat to the region's security and stability. And that Israeli military thinking—regardless of the costs—is working to make Israel a military state. It is not interested in peace. It is interested in war and in expanding the aggression. The source said that Israel is in the forefront of the states receiving arms, and it is the most prominent with regard to the purchase of various types of military equipment, despite what is being said about control of the arms race in the region.

The military official criticized states that supply Israel with arms while they continue to talk about peace endeavors and efforts. He said that when the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which the United States believes is within the framework of peace, was being signed, Israel was supplied—by airlift—with 24 Apaches. They were supplied under U.S. military aid. These helicopters are among the best in the world. A squadron of these helicopters took part recently in shelling Lebanese resistance positions in Lebanon, causing great devastation.

Israel has also a group of pilotless planes like Harvey Searcher Falcon, Eagle-eye, Kurns-2000, and modified Hunter "Binar" [names as transliterated]. There is information confirming Israel's possession of a group of Patriot missiles, which were supplied to the Israeli Army during the Gulf war.

The Syrian military official added that the quantity and quality of the arms in Israel's possession and those which it is seeking to possess is not in line with the peace proposals and confirm that Israel does not want peace, but, rather, is preparing for war, as Washington continues to officially declare its eagerness to maintain Israel's military superiority over neighboring Arab states, safeguarding this superiority within the equations of military strategic balance and confronting the advanced weapons owned by some Arab states with weapons that are superior.

The official pointed out that this military superiority represents a real threat to peace in the region, and no peace can last where the military balances of power are disrupted.

Paper Urges 'Tangible' U.S. Pressure on Israel

JN1706075694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the regional tour U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make soon in order to activate and promote the peace process since it has been stalled by Israel's intransigent policy.

AL-THAWRAH says: No doubt, the success of Christopher's new tour depends on the new things he carries. In other words, his tour depends on effecting the required change in the Israeli position on the peace process in a way that makes this position fully serious and committed to promoting this process and securing its objective in terms of a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper notes that the peace process is now facing a difficult impasse due to Israel's insistence on rejecting peace according to the bases set for it in both the Madrid formula and its international terms of reference, and also due to Israel's attempt to replace the principle of a comprehensive solution with separate deals and partial solutions that would enable Israel to perpetuate its occupation of the Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH also notes the four regional tours that Christopher has made in one and a half years. None of these tours achieved its objective in terms of promoting the peace process and realizing the required breakthrough. The paper adds: The failure of the U.S. efforts is entirely due to Israel and its policy which rejects peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Thus, the pressing task for the U.S. secretary during his next tour is to address Israel with new language that is primarily based on tangible political and material pressures in a way that will force Israel comply with international legitimacy, respond to the U.S. efforts, and meet the peace requirements without delay or hesitation.

In another commentary on the same topic, AL-THAWRAH says: The success of the efforts by the head of U.S. diplomacy during his new mission depends primarily on the ideas and proposals that Secretary Christopher will carry and whether they promote the peace process and rectify its course according to the bases and terms of reference of the Madrid conference. Christopher's mission also depends on the possibility of

changing the Israeli position, which is still far from the requirements and conditions of a just peace.

AL-THAWRAH urges the U.S. Administration to compel Israel, by all means of pressure, to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and acknowledge the Arab territories and rights because this is only the road to peace.

Ba'th Party Official Receives UK Figure

JN1606150794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] This morning, comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Steven Day, chairman of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding [CAABU], now visiting the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of the party's National Command. The two reviewed CAABU's activities in Britain in relation to Arab causes. Mr. Day stressed CAABU's support for the Arab demand that Israeli occupation of Arab territory be removed and legitimate Arab rights be recognized to promote a comprehensive and fair peace predicated on international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

The sides reviewed the state of coordination between CAABU and political organizations active in Arab states.

Comrade al-Ahmar laid out Arab issues and Israel's aggressive and terrorist practices against Arabs in the occupied territories and the obstacles it places in the path of the peace process in order to abort it.

Comrade al-Ahmar also reviewed Arab and world developments and the peace process, which, he emphasized, continues to flounder thanks to Israel's intransigence. He stressed that Syria is working for a fair and comprehensive peace settlement providing for the restitution of occupied territories and Arab rights.

Comrade al-Ahmar pointed to the role expected of Europe to make peace a reality.

For his part, Mr. Day paid tribute to the Syrian position on the peace process, indicating Syria's manifest international standing. He wished the Syrian people increased advancement and prosperity.

India

BJP Reiterates Demand for Nuclear Weapons

BK1706005194 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 94 p 17

[Text] Baroda, June 1, The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] today countered the Prime Ministers "posture" on the issue of nuclear option and asserted that India ought to declare itself as a "nuclear weapon state".

BJP president L.K. Advani as well as senior leader A.B. Vajpayee said that while the BJP was all for de-nuclearisation and disarmament the most question was whether this was happening anywhere.

"China", Mr Vajpayee said, "has just tested another nuclear device" Iran is on the threshold of the bomb while Pakistan is widely believed to have already made the bomb.

"So, where is the de nuclearisation?" Mr Vajpayee said and added: "We can also destroy the bomb. But first we have to make one. We should declare that we are a nuclear weapon state. That declaration itself would suffice."

Mr Advani, while talking to news men, said he for one was amused by the Prime Minister's reported remark that the BJP was resorting to one-upmanship on the nuclear option issue. "I would say that it is the Prime Minister who is indulging in one-upmanship by saying that his Government has kept the nuclear option open."

The BJP, Mr Advani said, ha been a consistent advocate of India going nuclear. An additional argument in support of this view now stemmed from the sort of attitude being adopted by the US after the collapse of the Soviet Union and its emergence as the only superpower.

Mr Vajpayee, touching upon the PM's remarks while delivering his own valedictory address at the BJP session, said it would not suffice for the Prime Minister to say that the nuclear option has been kept open. "You have to move further," he said.

Indiscipline flayed: Mr Vajpayee highlighted the need for the party to take all sections alone in its onward march. He also called upon partymen to live up to the party's image by making a break with factionalism and indiscipline.

In his customary session-end address, Mr Vajpayee told the National Council members that the contagion of factionalism and indiscipline widely prevalent in the other political parties was threatening the BJP as well. It was for partymen to see this danger.

Mr Vajpayee also spoke of the need for the Party to rise to the aspirations of Dalits. "In fact, the Dalits have started rallying behind the BJP in a big way. It is a good development but we are not even aware of it," he said, and called for Dalit conventions in the various States.

Mr Vajpayee came down heavily on anti-party activities being resorted to by some. The party should not condone this. No leniency should be showed to those who defy party discipline.

He also came down heavily on partymen jostling for position and power.

Delhi Sees 'Glimmer of Hope' in DPRK Nuclear Crisis

BK1706041794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Sentiments expressed at the Jimmy Carter-Kim il-Song meeting in Pyongyang and President Clinton's immediate response have given rise to a glimmer of hope that the international community would retrieve itself from the precipice of a catastrophe. The former U.S. President Mr. Jimmy Carter at the outset appeals for friendship, understanding, and trade, and full diplomatic relations in return for total nuclear inspections and a verifiable nonweapons production guarantee by North Korea.

President Kim il-Song's reponse that it was suspicion and lack of trust which led to the crisis. His call for direct talks with Washington coupled with continued access to international inspectors to monitor the Yongbyong nuclear facility has brought good response from the United States.

President Clinton remarked that if North Korea means that it is willing to freeze its nuclear program while talks take place, this could be a promising step. Though an offer for nuclear freeze made by President Kim il-Song in return for diplomatic recognition and economic cooperation was spurned by President Clinton, Jimmy Carter in his second round of talks today would secure greater and convincing steps to guarantee that North Korea is prepared to give up its nuclear intentions. President Clinton's response comes at a time when China has firmly stated that it will maintain its defense arrangement with North Korea and it is against the sanctions. Russians also opposed it, though on non-consultation and non- consideration of its proposal of an international conference on the issue. With the Security Council resolution on sanctions not materializing, President Clinton would be left with the option to go it alone with his allies Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, and Britain. Without the powers to prevent merchant ships and freight aircraft from reaching North Korea, the United States would not be in a position to stop many nations and private businessmen in its alliance countries from trading with Pyongyang. Any move to prevent such trade could provoke North Korea. Even if shunned by many countries, it has immense powers to remain isolated and pursue its (?past). Beijing's support in the face of American moves would also vitalize its strength. Therefore, a more promising way out is constructive engagement through direct negotiations between the

United States and North Korea. The second meeting between Jimmy Carter and President Kim il-Song moving in that direction is promising. The two could continue it in open negotiations or secret meetings. China and Russia could then relent on a milder Security Council resolution with more time for negotiations.

'Crude' Bombs Shock Prime Minister's Security

BK1606155894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 94 pp 1,24

[Text] New Delhi, June 11—Seven crude bombs were found yesterday at Talkatora Stadium, a couple of hours before the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session was to commence. The bombs were found near the main dais from where Prime Minister Narasimha Rao was to address the delegates and then remain seated there for some time.

Sources said the bombs were made of 'sutli' (rope) and some explosive powder. However, these devices were meant to scare the security agencies and drive home the point that the elaborate network was pierced. The bombs did not have any time device or detonator.

These devices were found during the security drill two or three hours before the session was to commence. The bomb disposal experts detected the devices near the dais and took them away for analysis. Sources reiterated that the devices were placed by miscreants or terrorists to make their presence felt. They, apparently, did not want to explode bombs there.

Intelligence agencies were now making efforts to trace the loophole. They were alarmed about this breach in tight security. A massive security operation was launched three days before the session was to commence. Experts of the National Security Guards (NSG) bomb disposal squad, the Special Protection Group (SPG) were assisting the Delhi Police to ensure security. The main dais was handed over to the SPG 48 hours before the session was to commence. The bombs were found yesterday morning.

Two Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCP), nine Assistant Commissioners (ACP), ten inspectors, 50 sub-inspectors, 130 head constables and 600 constables of the Delhi Police were responsible for the security along with the SPG and other agencies. Separate parking lots were earmarked for the VIPs and only those cars with special parking labels were allowed to enter.

Security was tightened around the State guest houses where the VIPs including Chief Ministers were staying. Entry was restricted to the Talkatora Stadium and metal detectors were installed at all the entrances.

The hedges and thick foliage around the stadium were trimmed as a precaution and personnel of the para-military forces were stationed there. Trained 'spotters' from the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Delhi Police and other agencies fanned out in various places of the city to keep tabs on hide-outs of terrorists.

Nineteen Reportedly Killed in Kashmir Clashes

BK1606153894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 14 Indian soldiers have been killed in clashes with mojahedin. Six Indian soldiers were killed when mojahedin attacked a military convoy in Rafiabad area; seven others were shot dead in a clash with mojahedin in Kishtwar. Mojahedin also suffered five casualties.

Reports say a three-day strike is being observed in the held valley to protest the killing of the Jihad Force chief commander, Nazir Ahmad Shah, by Indian soldiers. Thousands of people raising anti-India slogans took part in the funeral of the martyred mojahed in Bandipura. A big protest demonstration was also reported from Kishtwar where a mosque was desecrated by Indian forces.

6 Killed in Kashmir Valley

BK1606155994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, six persons, including four militants, were killed in the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that the security forces arrested 39 militants, including five hard-core, and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile, the day curfew was lifted in Bhadarwah town of Doda District today following improvement in the situation. Night curfew from 1900 till 0700 will however continue as a precautionary measure.

Iran

President Views Foreign Policy at World Forum

LD1606200894 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani participated in a TV satellite interview with participants of the Swiss-based International Crans Montana Forum at 1630 GMT Thursday.

In the direct satellite link, held at the request of forum participants and broadcast simultaneously to 35 countries and translated into five languages: English, French, Spanish, German and Italian, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about economics, politics, Iranian foreign relations, and other general issues of interest.

He referred to Iranian policy regarding its neighbors as a peaceful and friendly policy. With respect to events in northern Iraq, responding to a question by former French Foreign Minister Dumas, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: we respect Iraq's territorial integrity and see the

Kurds living in Turkey and Iraq as members of these countries whose interests should be noted.

Advising Russia not to interfere in the newly independent Central Asian countries, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Unfortunately, differences have arisen in these countries. Our policy is to solve these differences.

Referring to the tragic state of affairs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and emphasizing that the present condition must change, the president said: The hands of the majority of the people of this country have been tied but a minority allowed to commit aggression.

Addressing the participants, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If you and others feel unable to end the war in Bosnia you should allow the innocent Muslims to have defense capabilities.

The president added: Iran is prepared to dispatch its peace keeping forces to Bosnia within the context of the United Nations.

In another part of the interview, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the expansion of Franco-Iranian depends on policies of Paris. He added: If our friends in France try to free themselves from the effects of fabricated propaganda bilateral relations will expand easily.

Commenting on events in Algeria, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the victory of Muslims in the elections and said: The vote of the majority was not respected. We are surprised that the supporters and champions of human rights fail to take note.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: The Islamic Republic of Iran has been blamed regarding events in Algeria only because it has spoken its views without hindrance.

Velayati on 'Readiness' To Cut Arms Shipments

LD1606180794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati addressed a session of the international seminar of the Forum Foundation in Switzerland. Today was designated as the Islamic Republic of Iran Day. He spoke on recent progress in the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 15 years and its future development plans. He said: Unfortunately malicious propaganda has prevented world public opinion to fully understand the realities about the Iranian society and the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and the long strides it has taken to revive democracy in the country and establish stability and security in the region.

Velayati referred to the special geographical and political position of Iran and its active role in the establishment of regional security and stability and its assistance to resolve regional and international crises. He said: The great self-sacrifice of the Iranian nation in that regard, particularly in accepting 4 million refugees from various countries, has been ignored by the world community.

He elaborated on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances on regional and international political issues and said such stances were adopted to reduce the arms race and safeguard the soundness and security of oil exports and create mutual trust among regional states.

Velayati also expressed the readiness of our country for the active participation of our country in a comprehensive initiative to reduce the production and transfer of weapons to the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Comments on Foreign Policy

NC1706074794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] After his visit to Switzerland, Foreign Minister Velayati attended a discussion with Bonn's representative of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, where he spoke about the duties of the World Forum and its significance. Velayati said: During the past few years, this forum has held annual sessions in Crans Montana in Switzerland and has gained great significance in the world. The objective of this forum is to develop political-economic possibilities and to create the grounds and facilities for exchanges of views among personalities from all the countries of the world.

Referring to the significant and strategic regional role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to important issues such as the Central Asian countries and the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Velayati said: By clarifying the Islamic Republic's stances on the situation in the northern republics and the steps that Iran has taken to help preserve their independence, to mitigate and to overcome ethnic clashes, and to increase cooperation with these countries within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and the Organization of the Caspian Sea Littoral countries, we have played a pivotal and major role in past sessions. Thus, this year—thanks to efforts that have been made—explaining the economic-political position of the Islamic Republic of Iran at home and in the region became one of the most important and major programs of the World Forum and the first day of this year's session was devoted to Iran.

Continuing, Velayati referred to the comprehensive program prepared for the day devoted to the Islamic Republic of Iran at the forum and said: In this program, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani participated in a direct satellite link at the request of the organizers of the session—unprecedented at World Forum sessions—and answered questions put to him by participants in the forum.

In conclusion, Velayati referred to the participation of our country's commercial, economic, and banking officials at the session and the briefing of about 600 political and economic personalities from more than 40 countries of the world about Iran's economic, commercial, and industrial plans, and expressed hopes that the grounds

for the growth and the further expansion of economic, commercial, and industrial cooperation between Iran and the other countries of the world will be paved.

Foreign Minister's Visit to Iraq Previewed

NC1606124794 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 Jun 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran-Iraq Ties"]

[Text] An Iranian delegation left yesterday for Baghdad to prepare a visit next month by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the first high-ranking official to visit Iraq since the 1991 Iraq-Kuwait conflict.

Nearly six years after the bloody Iraq-Iran war which ended in a humiliating defeat for Saddam Husayn's forces, the two neighbors are yet to reach a settlement on a number of issues, particularly the fate of POWs and those missing in action, and applying U.N. resolution 598 to pay war reparations to Iran.

Islamic Iran has emerged as a powerful country in the region. And Iraq, despite being militarily dismantled after its invasion of Kuwait, and its economy left in a shambles following the U.N. trade embargo, has rebuilt its infrastructure at a stupendous pace. It is said that 90 percent of its transport and communication links have been restored. Iraq's starving children are only useful media images to buttress its campaign against the U.N. sanctions. Saddam Husayn stands out as a challenge to the West again.

Middle East observers say that Washington perceives Iraq, rather than Iran, as the main security threat in the region. However, given the fact that the United States is determined to pursue the so-called policy of 'dual containment' of both Iran and Iraq, improvement of bilateral ties would be of mutual benefit to the two neighbors.

Moreover, Iraq has learned its lessons well with respect to Iran. Baghdad knows that it can't beat Tehran. Externally, Baghdad is isolated. Internally, Saddam has formidable problems to contend with, besides a shattered economy. Some of his own people are rebelling against his leadership. Besides, he has not been able to crush the Shiite and Kurdish uprisings. Thus, Baghdad is aware that it is in its own interests to cooperate with the Iranian government rather than confront it.

For Iran too, it would be useful to have good relations with Iraq. Iraq is not just another Arab country; it has enough skilled and talented people. It was these same people who restored their country's infrastructure without any outside help, evoking a certain degree of admiration.

The two sides will have a lot of important issues to discuss. Another area of importance is trade. Once the U.N. sanctions are lifted, Iran can be a major supplier of goods to Iraq.

The current talks will, no doubt, be focussed on removing the obstacles to improving relations, rather than rapid normalization of ties, which can't be foreseen in the immediate future.

The onus rests on Iraq, to help clear the way for restoring Iran's confidence in Baghdad, for its was Saddam Husayn who was responsible for creating the divide between the two nations.

Tehran's mistrust and lack of faith in the Baghdad regime is not without reason. Baghdad has been supporting the outlawed Mojahedin-e Kahlq outfit, which is launching cross border attacks from inside Iraq. Extraditing its leader Mas'ud Rajavi will remove doubts that Baghdad is supporting the terrorist organization's activities, and may set the right note to tackle more important issues.

Velayati Prepared To Send 10,000 Troops to Bosnia

AU1606130194 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 16 Jun 94 p 7

[Report by Udo Ulfkotte: "Iran Wants To Send 10,000 Soldiers to Bosnia"]

[Text] Frankfurt, 15 June—Iran is prepared to place 10,000 Iranians at the disposal of the United Nations for employment in Bosnia, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati mentioned this to this newspaper. "Not a single other state of the world" is "willing to send such a large number of soldiers to Bosnia," Velayati said. He said that U.S. assertions that Iranians are already fighting on the side of the Bosnian Muslims "cannot be proven." So far, Iran has "only" provided "humanitarian" help to the Bosnian Government. President Rafsanjani has called on Iranian youth to prepare for the mission in Bosnia. However, they must be dispatched in agreement with the United Nations. So far, an answer to the Iranian offer has not yet been received from the United Nations, he said.

One day after the official announcement of the pardon for German mechanical engineer Szimkus, who was sentenced to death in Iran for espionage for Iraq, Velayati said: "The release of the German depends on agreements that we still have to make with German institutions." Minister of State Schmidbauer, who is reponsible for the coordination of the intelligence services in the Chancellor's Office, said on Tuesday [14 June]: "I proceed on the assumption that Szimkus might be on German territory within four weeks." Velayati rejected speculations that, in connection with the pardon for the German, clear concessions had been made to the Iranians accused in the Berlin Mykonos lawsuit. "We are only calling for a just sentence in the Mykonos lawsuit," the foreign minister said. At the same time, he denied Iran's intention to transfer ownership of the Island of Kish in the Persian Gulf, together with the luxurious recreational facilities that had been built under the Shah, to the FRG, in order to repay Iran's high debts to

German enterprises. Radio Tehran had reported relevant considerations on 31 May. With outstanding accounts of 4.2 billion German marks, Germany is Iran's biggest creditor. In the same radio report, President Rafsanjani said: "Iran's capital investments in Germany are higher than the amount that Iran owes to Germany." Velayati said: "Nobody has the authority to give an Iranian island away."

According to Velayati, in the Israeli-Arab conflict, Iran wants to continue its support for the fundamentalist Hamas movement despite the peace process. Support, which he called "humanitarian and moral," is necessary because the difficulties have not yet been solved. Pediatrician Velyati, who has been Iranian foreign miniser since 1981, said: "We do not expect the Israeli-Arab peace process to change the situation. The so-called peace process will fail." There are still more than 200 Jewish settlements in the territories occupied by Israel and 4 million Palestinians are still living in the refugee camps in Israel's neighboring states. An agreement has neither been achieved on the future of the Golan Heights nor on the Israeli occupation of a 10-km-wide border strip in Lebanon. "Mr. 'Arafat" will "only be the mayor of Gaza and Jericho," but otherwise "nothing has changed." Therefore, support for the radical pro- Iranian Hamas will be continued. Meanwhile, the Israeli Finance Ministry reported on Wednesday that, if the financial means promised to the PLO by European states do not immediately arrive in the autonomous territories, Hamas, which is supported by Iran, will "infiltrate $20 to 30 million" and try to undermine the PLO's policy in this way.

An important prerequisite for the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Iraq is Baghdad's preparedness to deny residence to the People's Mojahedin, who are operating from Iraqi territory. On the Iraqi side of the border, the People's Mojahedin maintain several bases northeast of Baghdad, from which they mount attacks in Iran. There are "indications that" an agreement can be achieved on it with Iraq," said Velayati, who will travel again to Baghdad in July for the first time since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian war in 1980. Next week, an Iranian delegation will prepare Velayati's visit to Baghdad. The Iranian foreign minister will discuss the fate of 25,000 missing Iranians from the first Gulf war and closer regional cooperation. He is prepared to also discuss the Iraqi aircraft that had been taken to Iran before the war for Kuwait's liberation. However, they can only be returned after a relevant UN decision has been made, Velayati said. The Iranian foreign minister, whose government repeatedly called for Saddam Husayn's overthrow in the past and is still granting asylum and support to leading members of the Iraqi opposition in Tehran, now said that the Iraqi people have to decide for themselves whether Saddam Husayn will continue to be in power. In 1987 Velayati still offered "new security guarantees" to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the event of Saddam's overthrow. Now he said that Iran will "not interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq."

The Iranian foreign minister warned the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain) against a military intervention in the Yemeni war and said: "This would be a big mistake in the region." Iran supports Yemen's unity. Velayati rejected assertions that Tehran is supporting the north Yemeni leadership with weapons.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Denounces Britain

NC1606132394 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by Daryush Sajjadi]

[Text] Tehran—"Bosnia is the greatest shame for Western civilization," said Bosnia-Herzegovina Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic.

Irfan denounced Britain saying London had adopted the dirtiest policy for the destruction of Bosnia.

The foreign minister arrived here on Friday [10 June] at the invitation of Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati for talks with Iranian officials on Balkan problems.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, Irfan denied the British allegation that the Iranian Embassy in Sarajevo circulated a letter in which London was blamed for the deteriorating situation in Bosnia.

"Not Iran, but we, Bosnians, circulated that letter which mentioned simple facts," Irfan said.

British policy on Bosnia is transparent and no document is needed to prove that London has adopted the disgusting course against Bosnian Muslims, Irfan said.

He scoffed at the logic of Britain, France and Russia who claim that the arms embargo has been imposed on former Yugoslavia to curb bloodshed in that war-torn country.

"This assumption is wrong," he said. "Bloodshed could have been restricted if there would have been a balance of weapons between the Muslims and Serbs," he said.

"The continuation of the arms embargo is one of the reasons we consider Russia, Britain and France partners in the crimes of the Serbs," Irfan said.

"Bosnia is not situated in Latin America or Africa, it is sitting in the heart of Europe, that claims to be the most civilized," Irfan said, adding that what is going on in Bosnia is the most shameful issue for the West.

He disputed with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias who in a recent statement from Tehran said that the Bosnian issue belongs to Europe and the fact is Europe does not want an Islamic state in that continent.

However, he said, there are a great number of open-minded people in Europe who accept Muslims and Islam and they denounce the feelings of apprehension for Islam.

"We are a peaceful nation and do not want to bother others," Irfan said.

Commentary Views OPEC Meeting in Vienna

LD1606132094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Oil ministers from the 12 OPEC member countries have gathered since yesterday in Vienna to assess, within the 96th session of the organization, the issues concerning OPEC.

Establishing the level of oil production ceiling in the third quarter of the current Christian year in view of market conditions, electing a new secretary general, and deciding to change the location of the OPEC secretariat are among the main topics of the discussions of OPEC's 96th session.

It should be mentioned that in the last session of the oil ministers which was held in the month of Farvardin [March-April] of the current year the level of OPEC production was established at 24.520 million barrels per day. In the past two month, as a result of the commitment shown by the members to the fixed quotas and of the emergence of signs of improvement in the world economy, a new round was created to increase the price of oil. It was thus that the OPEC oil marker price reached $16.

Although the price sought by OPEC for its marker price was determined at $21 per barrel and the organization still has a long way to go to reach its target, the existing climate at OPEC's 96th session manifests the willingness of all the members to maintain the present production ceiling. Despite the fact that the demand for oil has overtaken its supply and despite the increasing prices, OPEC's still aims to control the level of production.

In the viewpoint of economic experts, the fluctuations in the oil prices have a very important effect on the development plans of the members of OPEC. These countries are mainly dependent on oil income and even a dollar reduction in the oil price will reduce the income of the member countries by $9 billion.

Therefore, under the present situation, where it seems that members of OPEC are united in their view in protecting the production ceiling despite the oil demand and economic problems of the member countries, this hope will be created that once again OPEC, which has passed through three decades of experiences and ups and downs, will find its true position and authority in the international economic arena.

In the opinion of experts on oil issues, protecting the production ceiling of 24.5 million barrels per day, taking into account this prediction that demand will reach 26 million barrels per day during the 3rd and 4th quarter of the current Christian year, facilitates the process of achieving higher prices. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always strived to establish a just price for oil, supports any action that will lead to an increase in the oil price and gives authority to OPEC and believes that protecting the regular flow of oil supply to the world economy depends on stable prices. Such an aim will guarantee the interests of producers and consumers alike.

Daily Lauds President's Candor in News Conference

NC1606125194 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (Weekly Edition) in English 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The President's Press Conference"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's free and frank talk with the world press is always a source of pride and comfort. Firstly, it pours cold water on those who still insist there is no freedom of expression in the Islamic Republic. Secondly, it boosts the morale of Iranians and their foreign friends when gloom and disillusionment get the better of them. Finally, it reminds world public opinion about the confidence and elegance of the elected president of Iran.

In our part of the world you cannot find even a few heads of states or government who hold, what is now generally come to be termed as, 'open' press conferences.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani deserves congratulations for doing so, though the gaps between one press meeting and another have been widening. This may be rightly attributed to the chief executive's tight schedules, but his aides should ensure that the country's president receives journalists and commentators at regular intervals. It helps in boosting the nation's image.

On Tuesday more than 100 journalists were at the presidential bureau shooting queries on everything from the dress code for women to alleged nuclear cooperation with North Korea. Local and foreign scribes shot a volley of questions, sometimes irresponsibly and outside acceptable norms of protocol. The president fielded them in his usual sophisticated manner.

Our president's candor and self-confidence is envied in camps unwilling to accept Iranian realities. Irrespective of the fact that on several counts (mostly on the conduct of the economy) the president's point of view was not very convincing, of cardinal importance is the fact that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a man who believes in what he is doing and sees no reason to conceal his thoughts.

There was also a barrage of questions on Islamic Iran's foreign policy. In short, clear and simple language the president made it known that his administration is keen

on building normal relations with the international community. The universal truth that knowledge often fosters tolerance and understanding was amply clear between the lines.

Censuring the British Government for its misdeeds plus bugging Iran's diplomatic mission in London, the president said. "This wrong deed by the British has created an atmosphere of insecurity and mistrust in relations, which will have negative consequences." However, he added immediately that "we do not wish to see the existence of such an atmosphere among countries."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now in his second, and probably last term of office. Opinion about his administration is mixed at home and abroad, depending on one's knowledge about pre- and post-revolutionary Iran.

For the second time this week President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chronicled the achievements made under his rule and insisted that Iran's economic condition is not as bad as some would like to publicize. Millions of Iranians saw and heard their president say this on TV. Many must have exchanged glances in disbelief. Mind you they, like millions across our Islamic nation, are people who want the president to succeed. On this count however, they could not help but disagree with him.

Correction to Hashemi-Rafsanjani News Conference

LD1606111094

The following additions complete the excerpted item headlined "Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference," published in the 10 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 44-58:

Page 44, column one, paragraph one make processing indicator read: [Text].

Page 45, column one, paragraph six, from end of last sentence make read: ...policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About the privatization policy, this policy began during the first five-year plan. It will continue in the second plan. We are carrying out the task gradually within the framework of the Constitution. That is, anything that the Constitution permits to be transferred to the private sector, will be privatized. The stock exchange has become more active recently, in recent months. The stock exchange will open branches in various cities and towns. The system was computerized to speed up the work.

About foreign investment...

Page 47, column one, paragraph six, from end of last sentence make read: ...economic readjustment policy. If today someone finds time to go around Iran, he will see for himself that in each corner of Iran an industrial township has been created and a large number of new industries are engaged in activities—either they are being built or they have become operational. The readjustment policy allowed us to reach this stage. Otherwise—we had a sum of oil money and used it to import goods and sell them cheap to people—the old situation would have been repeated and nothing would have happened.

[Indian correspondent (?Sukimra)]...

Page 47, column two, paragraph two, from the end of the last sentence make read: ...reached so far.

[RESALAT correspondent 'Abbas Tavangar] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Is the government planning to curtail economic growth so as to provide a greater degree of support for the deprived, the oppressed, and the salary earners in line with the growing inflation rate?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is no need to curtail economic growth, for we have performed some tasks in the first five-year plan which have paved the grounds for giving greater support to the deprived and the oppressed. First, more attention is paid to the deprived and war-stricken areas, which absorbed a large chunk of the first plan's budget. Second, we are currently preparing some programs to provide social welfare and national health insurance for the entire country. The government is currently debating these programs and you will be made aware of these programs when they are presented to the Majles. These programs plan to provide welfare and national insurance to everyone whose income is below a certain rational level, or to the unemployed. We hope to be able to solve this problem completely by the end of the second plan, without having to curtain economic growth.

[RESALAT correspondent] If...

Page 48, column two, paragraph two, from the end of the last sentence make read: ...the court verdict.

[Correspondent Sa'id Hashemi] Mr. President. Please explain the latest decisions of the Council of the Economy on prices of services and goods. Will we have more price rises? And when will the price rises come into effect?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have typically approved all that was necessary concerning services and goods. We have apparently nothing remaining for the future. As far as I see the directives of the Council of the Economy every month, there is nothing in it for the future. Whatever that was there before has been carried out.

[Correspondent Sa'id Hashemi] This question was... (supplying passage omitted and correcting correspondent's first name from "Farid" to "Sa'id")

Page 51, column two, first partial paragraph, from the end of the last sentence make read: ...to see this.

[Unidentified person in hall reminds Rafsanjani to answer AFP correspondent's second question]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani continues] The visit by...

Page 52, column one, paragraph two, from end of last sentence make read: ...The Islamic instructions. That means if we apply Islamic ideas to work, to extravagance, to justice, to obtaining the rights of the weak from the strong. If we could do all that, in our view, many problems that exist in many other places would not exist in such an atmosphere; or problems which the west is facing now because of moral issues, because of its promiscuity. We know what sort of problems families without breadwinners, orphaned children, widowed women and others have there. Such things would not exist in an Islamic atmosphere. And many other things. The philosophy cannot be applied partially and prejudicially. It is a combination and it should be applied as a whole.

[SALAM correspondent Nuri-Shemirani]...

Page 52, column one, paragraph four, from end of last sentence make read: ...and so on. We determine the price of some general goods through the guilds. The [Consumer] Protection Organization gets together with the unions and considering an appropriate profit for wholesalers, producers, and small businesses, they decide on three sets of prices that must be implemented. They ensure a fair profit and the customer can see and choose. This has nothing against trade and throughout the world, in countries which are more advanced in freedom of trade, such a method is used.

We believe that...

Page 53, column one, paragraph three, from end of last sentence make read: ...and income supplements. I believe that that they [those receiving benefits] have a good answer to your question. If you compare that, for instance, what they received five years ago under the sickness benefit coverage and what they get today then the answer to the question can be extracted.

[Fazel] Many thanks. My second question is about issuing coupons for laborers. Could you tell us whether such payments are given in the Second Plan as well, or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] During the First Plan we owed the laborers and the government had an undertaking dating back to the previous government which had not been paid out. And other undertakings were added to that in the First Plan. Some of that debt is still outstanding. We have said that the debt should be considered in the budget every year. I think that several years still remain for [complete payment of] that debt and it will be paid gradually, at the same level that we are paying this year.

[Fazel] I have...

Page 53, column one, paragraph eight, from end of last sentence make read: ...statement on that? The Egyptian government, Mr. Husni Mubarak's government believes that Iran is responsible for Islamic unrest in that country. Could you express your view on those allegations.

Second question: What...

Page 54, column one, paragraph five, from end of last sentence make read: ...would be convicted.

[Qotbi] My final question is about some apparent violations that have taken place regarding imports during 1370-1371—whether through the Free Trade Zones or the normal channels. For example some agreements which were granted in principle to some firms or individuals for founding vehicle production plants. They were such that a ceiling of up to 2,000 vehicles could be imported. I would like to ask in particular [about the fact] that more than that figure have been imported—I mean one of those firms imported between 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles. Will such violations be confronted and how?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If they have acted in violation they will definitely be confronted. We have no intention of letting any violation pass. Whenever we come to one or someone makes a claim we get it investigated. We refer it to the relevant courts. The system will really not make any concessions to anyone who seeks to commit violations...

Page 55, column two, paragraph five, sentence one make read: ...[Correspondent Hajibabakhan, in Azeri with superimposed translation into Persian by interpreter] As a result...(deleting [passage omitted] editorial notation, clarifying that question in Azeri is faded out and Persian translation is superimposed).

Nepal

King Summons Parliament To Meet 29 Jun

BK1406154494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kathmandu, June 14 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal has called for parliament to open its seventh session on June 29 during which the future of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala is likely to be decided.

In what observers said Tuesday is likely to be a stormy session, the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) will have to decide its differences, with the pro- and anti-Koirala camps still at loggerheads.

The prime minister is also expected to push for a change in party rules to allow him to hold two posts—prime minister and party president—which would give him control, they said.

Internal problems aside, the government also faces a renewed threat of public protests from the opposition Nepal Communist Party-ULited Marxist and Leninist.

Rebel NC MPs are also threatening to vote against an important financial bill unless Koirala resigns.

Opposition Party Splits Into Two Factions

BK1706070294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Kathmandu, June 16 (AFP)—Nepal's second largest parliamentary opposition party, the United Peoples Front (UPF), has split into two factions after a party official was expelled from a UPF committee, a party source said Thursday.

Six of the party's MPs pushed out UPF convenor Baburam Bhattarai from the committee he headed for using the party for personal gain, the source said.

The two new UPF factions have filed petitions to the Chief Election Commission Office seeking exclusive recognition for the next general elections in 1996.

Government Announces New Visa Regulations

BK0806151094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Kathmandu, June 8 (AFP)—Nepal has announced new visa regulations with lower fees and longer periods of validity aimed at boosting the tourism industry with effect from July 16, an official source said Wednesday.

Under the new visa regulations, foreigners investing in Nepalese business and industry will be given five-year multiple entry visas.

The cost of ordinary tourist visas will drop to 15 dollars from the current rate of 20 dollars for a 15-day stay, which can be extended to 35 days for another 25 dollars, the official said.

Tourist group leaders and foreigners staying in Nepal for up to six months to conduct feasibility studies in industrial and trade activities will be given non-tourist visas, the official added.

Tourists arrivals to Nepal dropped to 293,567 in 1993 from 334,353 the previous year. Tourist receipts fell to 61.09 million dollars in 1993 from 72.10 million dollars.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.